

Agenda Sept 17th Special Meeting “Getting more Rehabbers”

Facts

Declining Numbers- Before 2006 over 200 Wildlife Rehabbers in Ontario. In 2017 there were 70, in 2019 there were 60 and in Nov of 2022 - 53. September 2023 now 48. Training Courses. Sherri’s course 2019 had 28 people, resulted in only one new Rehabber.

There are more injured and orphaned wild animals in Ontario looked after by the public than by Wildlife Rehabbers. If the public cannot find help they will try to look after the animals themselves.

Strategy & tactics timing discussion at end of agenda

Recruiting prospects (multi-year project)

Prospects --Foster Care People, OWR requests, Laurel’s requests, Northern Collage, News Media Stories, MNRF leads (public requests for information), Vets, public who rescues, Community events.

Ideas other?

Promotion- News media, social media, request lists, MNRF (Districts)

Resources to Get and Assist New Rehabbers

Current – OWR “How to page”, MNRF “How to become” page, Sherri’s course, Coach Laurel.

Support- Annual meeting, Online Rehabbers Group, OWR food warehouse, Metro/Basics, Manitoulin Transport, Audrey Fund.

New- Online courses, seminars by Rehabbers, mentoring team list, New Rehabbers Group, update OWR “How to page” other resources?

Tracking Applications – How?

-Ideas other?

A) Veterinarians barriers

-lack of, shortage of, retiring on Rehabbers, Vet of record for authorization

Vet solutions

-direct mailing, appeal to Vets

-list of possible Vets

-OV Collage distribution flyers (Sherri)

B) MNRF barrier

-Getting Approved (Kawartha 3, Thunder Birds 3, Mally's 2 ½ and Georgian Bay Turtle 1 1/2)

Lost Applications: -know of 5 applications the MNR never responded to.

New Assessment Checklist- everything appears to be mandatory. District wants yes on all questions. Applicants think they do not qualify.

MNRF barriers solutions?

-goes to #1 and #2 on Priority MNRF List

#1 On the application form write "You will be contacted by your District Office within 30 days. If you are not contacted within 30 days please call (phone number or email)

#2 On the New Rehabber assessment check list form mark what is mandatory and everything else is a plus but not mandatory.

-Ideas other?

C) Provincial Animal Welfare Services Barriers

Paws fines Deterrent - wipe out most Wildlife Rehabbers.

Paws Regulations are based on animals in permanent captivity (GFAS)

Paws can be used to retaliate against a Wildlife Rehabber.

MNRF site inspections are not acceptable to Paws.

Paws "distress". (injured, sick, in pain or suffering). Section 15 (b)

Solicitor General's Office – Rehabbers will just have to live with it.

Paws barriers solutions? (MNRF has no control on Paws)

1) **Target** Solicitor General's Office

2) **Go public** – News Media and social media "Wildlife Rescue being regulated out of existence "

3) **Wait till next Rehabber has problem**

-Ideas other?

Strategy – Get more Wildlife Rehabbers (numbers objective?)

Tactics & timing

Promotion –

Resources New-

Barriers- Vets

-MNR

-Paws