

Wildlife Rehabbers MNRF Partnership

Communication: It has to be a two way conversation. Rehabbers should not just hear from the MNRF when there is a problem. Rehabbers and the MNRF should be able to talk about everything going on in wildlife (Rabies Report) . Listen to what Wildlife Rehabbers have to say. Let Rehabbers know what is going on in the MNRF such as new staff. Transparency

Intent of Regulation : Intent of regulation not the letter , is what is important and how it effects wildlife. Literal interpretation of rules and regulations creates conflict with Rehabbers. When what is best for the animal is when MNRF and Rehabbers are on the same side. As Audrey Tournay said “ it is all about the animals , that what drives Rehabber” .

Encourage Not Discourage Rehabbers : Encouraging new Rehabbers instead of telling them what will happen if they step out of line makes a big difference. Letting Wildlife Rehabbers know that they are making a difference. Encouraging the public that has expresses interest in Wildlife to get involved with their local Rehabber. Attend Wildlife Rehabber events .

Not Saying No: Changing the current approach of “ if it does not say you can therefore you can’t” . Ask questions at the district level , what is best for the animal . Trust the Rehabbers common sense. Transparency of problems.

Reward District Managers: Give credit to district managers on how many Rehabbers there are in their district . Special credit of any new wildlife rehabbers starting up in a district. How many injured or orphaned wild animals looked after and the survival rate in a district. Include results in a district managers annual review. Currently penalizes Managers for having Rehabbers in their District . Carrot not the stick approach . Ontario Wildlife Rescue District Rep of the year idea?

MNRF Front Lines: Use rehabbers to help communications with the public.(ie living with wildlife, rabies). Rehabbers as early warning system for signs of diseases , shift in animal behavior and new problems with wildlife. Help Science & Information with their studies.

IF the MNRF trusts Wildlife Rehabbers they will trust the MNRF