

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Guidance for Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities
on Submitting Wildlife for Necropsy**

Selected wild animals which die while under wildlife rehabilitation care should be submitted to WDNR Wildlife Health for necropsy, based on WDNR current disease surveillance priorities:

- All peregrine falcons and loons as part of ongoing research on disease/contaminant issues for these species of special concern.
- Eagles from any of the following situations:
 - all banded eagles
 - suspected law enforcement cases
 - found within 5 miles of the lower WI River from Dec. 1st through Mar. 31st (for ongoing investigations into the “lower WI River Bald Eagle Syndrome”)
 - found within 5 miles of the Great Lakes shoreline from Apr. 1st through Aug. 30th (for contaminants monitoring)
 - eagles that had an unusual clinical course prior to death (please contact Wildlife Health for guidance)
- Trumpeter swans from any of the following situations:
 - all banded or collared swans
 - when cause of death is not evident (not obvious trauma, electrocution, etc.)
 - suspected law enforcement cases
- During the WNV season (May-Oct), non-corvid species with a working diagnosis of WNV that die will be accepted for tissue sampling to confirm WNV. WDNR will not be routinely testing specific species for WNV in 2009. Sick/dead corvids (crows, ravens, blue jays) found during the WNV season should be reported to the Dead Bird Hotline (1-800-433-1610)
- For 2009 avian influenza surveillance, any bird from a significant and unexpected bird mortality event (which means where > 5 birds die in a small area over a small period of time). For these situations please refrigerate the carcass and call your local DNR Wildlife Biologist or Wildlife Health (608-221-5375) within 24 hours for possible AI sampling and/or delivery to Wildlife Health.

Other species may be submitted for necropsy on a case by case basis, but only with prior approval from Wildlife Health. Cases will be chosen based on indications that they will help us understand an unusual morbidity/mortality event or will contribute to our overall knowledge of a species’ population health risks.

Carcasses for necropsy must be in good condition. They can be refrigerated if they will be delivered to Wildlife Health within 3 days, otherwise, they must be frozen right away and kept frozen until delivered to Wildlife Health.

Animals that have been in rehab for more than 5 days will generally not be acceptable for necropsy. The value of necropsy to understanding the animal’s original health problem declines the longer the animal has been undergoing treatment or supportive therapy.

For questions or approval of a necropsy submission, please contact: Nancy Businga at Nancy.Businga@wisconsin.gov or 608-221-5375. Necropsies will be performed as the schedule permits. Final necropsy reports will be shared with the submitter.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Necropsy Submission Form for Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities

Rehabilitation Facility Data

For WDNR use only Case #:

Name/Facility Name:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

Animal History Data

Species:
Date found:
County where found:
Location description: (be as specific as possible)

Facility ID#:
Existing bands/tags:

Rehabilitation Data

Date admitted:
Signs noted upon admittance: (include brief description, physical and behavioral, or attach copy of record)

Working Diagnosis:

Date died or euthanized:
Method of euthanasia:

Diagnostics

Lab tests and results: (list or attach copies of reports)

Were radiographs taken? YES _____ NO _____ If YES, describe findings.

Treatments (list each medication given, dose, number of days, and date of last administration or attach copy of treatment records)

Additional Comments