

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**Title of Rule:** Rules and Regulations Governing Wildlife Rehabilitation

**Rule Identifier:** 250-RICR-60-00-1

**Rulemaking Action:** Proposed Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: April 13, 2026

Hearing Date: May 12, 2026

End of Public Comment: May 20, 2026

**Rulemaking Authority:**

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 42-17.1

42-17.6

R.I. Gen. Laws 20-1-4

20-1-18

20-1-22

20-37-3

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

The purpose for this regulatory action / change is to update the use of permits to control and manage wildlife rehabilitation. Amended handling of potentially diseased animals and restrict species from being rehabilitated and released into the wild.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 20, 2026 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

David Kalb  
Department of Environmental Management  
277 Great Neck Rd  
West Kingstion, RI 02892  
david.kalb@dem.ri.gov

**Public Hearing:**

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

**Public Hearing Information:**

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location: DFW Outdoor Education Office  
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place  
Exeter, RI, 02822

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-284-3427 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

**REASON FOR RULEMAKING:** The purpose of these regulations is to establish the standards under which “Wildlife Rehabilitators” may be permitted to conduct the handling, care for, dispatch of, release of, and other activities as related to wildlife protected by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

1.5(A)12 Edited definition for Native Wildlife,

1.10(M) Updated species that DFW would like to know about being rehabbed,

1.10(W) Correct language,

1.14(A) Edit species of rabies vector species that can be rehabilitated as adults.

These Regulations do not impose any new requirements on regulated entities including any small businesses or any city or town; therefore, there is no adverse economic impact. In the development of the proposed rule/amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business.

No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.