

CHAPTER 111  
NATURAL RESOURCES COLLECTOR PERMITS: RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND WILDLIFE  
REHABILITATION

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

**571—111.1(481A) Definitions.**

*“Educational project permit”* which may authorize the holder to take, acquire and possess live wildlife for educational displays.

*“Permit holder”* means an organization or person that possesses a valid permit issued by the Iowa department of natural resources under Iowa Code section 481A.65.

*“Scientific collector’s permit”* means a permit which authorizes the holder to take, study or disturb protected species for scientific purposes only, or components of public lands including biotic and abiotic elements.

*“Wildlife rehabilitation permit”* means a permit which authorizes the holder to take and temporarily possess injured, sick or orphaned authorized wildlife species with the sole intent to return the animal to its natural habitat as soon as possible.

*“Wildlife salvage permit”* means a permit which authorizes the holder to possess, for natural resource education programs or scientific studies, authorized protected species which have died as the result of natural causes, accidents, legally taken, or donated specimens which have been legally obtained.

**571—111.2(481A) General conditions for permits.**

1. Applications will not be approved for private collections or for commercial use of protected species.
2. Any costs incurred by the permittee for the administration of any permit authorized by this chapter of rules will be the responsibility of the permittee.
3. Scientific collector permits, wildlife salvage permits, educational project permits, with the exception of those for migratory birds will generally be issued in the name of the institution or organization. The principal collector or permit holder will be listed on the permit and be responsible for administering the permit. All persons collecting or working under the authority of the permit shall carry a copy of the permit and a letter of authorization from the principal permit holder.
4. Educational project permits for migratory birds and wildlife rehabilitation permits may list an institution or organization, but also must list the person or persons with the qualifications for that particular permit. These permits do not necessarily continue with the institution or organization if the person or persons listed on the permits leave. If replacement personnel with the proper qualifications for the permit or permits are found, then the permit or permits may stay in the institution’s or organization’s name.
5. Specimens collected or possessed under any permit authorized by this chapter of rules remain the property of the state of Iowa. The department of natural resources reserves the right to determine the disposition of all specimens collected under authority of these permits.
6. Records, facilities and inventories must be made available for inspection by the department’s agents during reasonable hours.
7. Records of collections and the manner in which specimens have been acquired and their disposition must be kept current at all times. Rehabilitation permits must be updated within 24 hours of the event. All other permits must be updated within 48 hours of the event.
8. Authorization to collect or possess endangered or threatened species requires special permission and must comply with provisions established in Iowa Code chapter 481B.
9. A representative of the department of natural resources must be notified within 72 hours of taking or holding of threatened or endangered species that are found dead and within 24 hours for those that are injured or sick.
10. A permitted rehabilitator or veterinarian must determine if a migratory bird is permanently crippled before it may be held under an educational project permit.
11. Permit fees will be \$5 for one year, \$10 for two years, and \$15 for three years.

12. Applicants for scientific collectors, wildlife rehabilitation, and educational projects must be 18 years old or provide written permission from a parent or guardian.

13. No animals being rehabilitated may be used for educational programs.

14. Applicants for scientific collector, wildlife rehabilitation, wildlife salvage, and educational project permits that are requesting permission to collect, possess, or hold wildlife species as listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, 50 CFR 10, 20 & 21, must follow provisions set forth and may be required to obtain a federal permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

15. Any native mammals, reptiles, amphibians, or fish which are not state listed endangered or threatened species and are obtained from legal sources outside the state of Iowa are exempt from these permit requirements. Proof of origin of each animal is the responsibility of the owner.

**571—111.3(481A) Scientific collector's permit.** A scientific collector's permit may, after investigation, be issued to any business, organization, university, college or person engaged in a scientific project approved by the department of natural resources.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

Reason for study, expected conservation benefit for Iowa, species, number of specimens to be collected, geographic location, timeframe, and collection methods must be identified in the application narrative and approved by the department of natural resources.

**571—111.4(481A) Wildlife salvage permit.** A wildlife salvage permit may be issued to any business, university, college, school, public agency, other organization or person engaged in a natural resource education or research program approved by the department of natural resources.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

Special approval is required for the salvage of migratory birds including nests and eggs.

**571—111.5(481A) Educational project permit.** The following classes of educational project permits may be issued by the department:

**111.5(1)** A general educational project permit for protected animal species other than migratory birds may be issued to any university, college, school, public agency, other organization or person engaged in a natural resource education program approved by the department of natural resources. The limitation on the number of animals in possession shall be established by the ability of the permit holder to provide adequate facilities and care.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

**111.5(2)** A Migratory Bird apprentice educational project permit may be issued to a person interning to meet the requirements of the federal special purpose possession permit and being sponsored by a person possessing: 1. A master wildlife rehabilitation permit and having two years' experience using migratory birds under a state or federal educational project permit, 2. A master class falconry permit holder, or 3. A Migratory Bird general educational project permittee for at least 5 years. An apprentice will be limited to the possession of one American kestrel and one screech owl that are permanently crippled or human imprinted. In the case where an apprentice will be in charge of an existing facility with additional birds, the sponsor and the conservation officer must approve the possession of the additional species and individuals.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to two years.

**111.5(3)** A Migratory Bird general educational project permit for migratory birds may be issued to a person who has served the appropriate apprenticeship and is recommended by the person's sponsor; or has previously held an educational project permit for migratory birds issued by the Iowa department of natural resources or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or has held master class state and federal falconry permit within the last five years.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

**571—111.6(481A) Wildlife rehabilitation permit.** The following classes of wildlife rehabilitation permits may be issued by the department:

**111.6(1)** An apprentice wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person serving a one-year internship with and being sponsored by a person possessing a master wildlife rehabilitation permit, or to a person serving a two-year internship with and being sponsored by a person possessing a general wildlife rehabilitation permit.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to two years.

**111.6(2)** A general wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person who has served the appropriate apprenticeship; has graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine; or has previously held a rehabilitation permit issued by the Iowa department of natural resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or any other state natural resource agency.

A general wildlife rehabilitator may sponsor up to four apprentices at a given time.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

**111.6(3)** A master wildlife rehabilitation permit may be issued to a person who has completed five consecutive years of extensive rehabilitation work and has received a recommendation from the local state conservation officer, or who is a licensed veterinarian with specific training and experience in wildlife rehabilitation. The department of natural resources may issue a master wildlife rehabilitation permit to individuals who have demonstrated special ability, knowledge, training and experience in wildlife rehabilitation.

A master wildlife rehabilitator may sponsor up to six apprentices at a given time.

This permit may be issued for a period of up to three years.

**571—111.7(481A) Application qualifications.** All applicants for any permit defined herein must possess adequate qualifications/experience and facilities to house and properly confine species held under the permit if applicable. The facilities of all applicants should follow the most current publicized minimum housing guidelines as established for the various species by the appropriate governing body. Governing bodies include, but are not limited to, National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association, the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, the Fish and Wildlife Service, or United States Department of Agriculture.

For scientific collectors permits, the permittee must follow the guidelines set forth by the organization's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or the organization overseeing the research.

For education and rehabilitation permits, the permittee and officer will be provided the appropriate Permit Inspection Sheet based on the guidelines set forth by the appropriate governing body and their permit resources.

If housing animals, rehabilitation and educational project permit holders must provide a completed and signed Consulting Veterinarian Agreement on the form provided by the department from a licensed veterinarian that will provide professional counsel to the permit holder.

Applicants must list species or groups of species such as but not limited to: rabbits, squirrels, migratory birds, snakes or turtles, for which they will be providing rehabilitation services on their permit application narrative. Scientific Collector applicants must provide specific species names and target numbers.

The application narrative for an educational project permit must list the species and number of each species that will be held. Facilities for migratory birds must meet the design and size criteria set forth by the NWRA and the FWS.

If an applicant has been found in court to have committed an act of animal cruelty or neglect, the application shall not be eligible for a permit for at least five years from the date of the conviction or guilty plea.

**571—111.8(481A) Evaluation committee.** For the purpose of evaluating facilities, standards of care, study design, sample numbers, and impacts to wild populations from applications requested by permit holders under this rule, the director may establish an ad hoc committee of persons with expertise in wildlife, rehabilitation, veterinary medicine, research, and/or education. Upon request by the director, the committee shall inspect the facilities, procedures and educational programs and provide the department with

appropriate recommendations. The recommendations may be used as a basis for placing certain conditions on a permit or modifying or terminating a permit.

**571—111.9(481A) Disposition of animals.** Injured or orphaned animals which cannot be returned to their natural environment shall be transferred to someone with an educational project permit or, after being euthanized by or under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian, handled as follows:

- Transferred to someone with a scientific collector's permit or a wildlife salvage permit after obtaining permission from the department, or
- Disposition of carcasses must be in accordance to local ordinances and according to Iowa Code chapter 167.

All threatened and endangered species which have died, which must be euthanized, or which cannot be released shall be referred to the department of natural resources for further determination of proper disposition.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 481A.41 and 481A.65.