PROCYON WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE
Working For Wildlife

FOSTERING PROTOCOLS

This document is to create a framework that allows the fostering of animals under Procyon Wildlife's care while maintaining cost and control of animals and supplies. While our foster caregivers can give dedicated one on one care, it is essential that our organization stay in touch and provide continued guidance and support. We have struggled in past with documentation and lack of control over supplies which have caused unnecessary expense and issues with MNR reporting.

FOSTER REQUIREMENTS

- Must have volunteered for at least one season at Procyon Wildlife.
- Must be over 18 years of age.
- Must have completed the RVS Training and passed the MNR RVS exam.
- Must have suitable space separate from domestic animals and/or dwelling.
- Must allow Custodian & Head Animal Care Coordinator to do a site inspection of premises.
- Must agree to follow protocols within this document or as updated from time to time as regulations may change.
- Must sign and agree to the MNR Foster Agreement Form.
- Must sign and agree to abide by the Procyon Wildlife Protocols in this document.
- Must follow wildlife transportation protocols and be willing to transport animals for vaccines/checkups to centre.

INTAKE PROCESS

- Only intakes preapproved by Custodian and Head Animal Care Coordinator may occur.
- Intakes must occur at Procyon Wildlife centre.
- Full MNR & Procyon Wildlife Intake information must be obtained prior to or at time of intake with a hard copy to remain at the centre.
- Complete intake exam of animal(s) is required by Head Animal Care Coordinator prior to removal for fostering.

SUPPLIES

- Any caging, food, equipment to be pre-approved and documented before leaving the building and not to exceed requirements for 10 days.
- ALL unused supplies to be returned to the centre with the animal(s) or immediately upon their death or release.
- We encourage fosters to invest in personal caging where possible (some great deals found on used item sites) to prevent wear and tear from transportation.
- Any fosters interested in obtaining personal incubators are encouraged to apply to Baby Warm (now able to ship to Canada!) – ask Procyon Wildlife for more details.

DOCUMENTATION

- Must maintain log book documentation for each animal/litter to meet both MNR and Procyon Wildlife standards.
- Infants – document daily weights, feeding schedules & amounts with any issues noted.
- Weanlings - daily weights, feeding schedules and milestones in weaning and physical growth.
- Any cause for concern related to care and feeding to be addressed to the Animal Care Coordinator.
- Any medications need to be signed off by Head Animal Care Coordinator and doses recorded.
- Deworming schedules to be maintained and determined by Head Animal Care Coordinator.
- Weekly updates to be sent to Head Animal Care Coordinator on progress and next stages.
- Any death to reported within 24 hours.

TODDLERS

- Once weaned the animal should be returned to Procyon Wildlife for outside enclosures with very rare exceptions.
- Any Foster's Outdoor Pre-Release caging is to be Pre-Approved by the Head Animal Care Coordinator, must meet "Minimum Standards" and should expect MNR inspection.

- Any planned release to be reviewed by Head Animal Care Coordinator prior to occurrence and reported within 24 hours.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- There shall be no direct posting on social media or public sharing of any animal(s) in foster care.
- Pictures and videos may only be shared/posted by getting preapproval first and can then be used as directed.
- This ensures that any post that may attract negative attention can be corrected before posting, but also provides the needed positive content to keep our accounts fresh.
- Social media, pictures, videos and posts of fostered animals for **Procyon Wildlife** must not mention or have a description of care, condition or location as well as all appropriate PPE must be worn when handling fostered animals. No pictures of cuddling, kissing, inappropriate handling etc. are allowed.

ADVICE AND RESEARCH

- We have had issues in past with fosters reaching out to other sources for advice and/or research - this needs to be cleared through the Head Animal Care Coordinator first.
- We have a wealth of resource information available to us in hard copy and online formats as well as strong relationships with many other rehabbers that may specialize in certain areas.
- Not all resources are created equally and relationships can be strained when multiple contacts are made for the same reason.
- If we can't answer your question or concern directly, we will give you good alternatives to trusted information.

VETERINARIANS

- We cannot stress enough the need for ALL vetting concerns to flow through the Head Animal Care Coordinator.
- Vets that are willing and able to work with wildlife are precious and few and we must use those resources wisely.
- There is much that we are able to manage in house and we work every year to increase our training and resources to keep expanding those areas so that we can manage our limited vet resources better.
- We work closely with those vets to build stronger relationships that allow us much greater freedoms than a normal vet/patient relationship.
- Discussions of care related to our wildlife patients should NOT be had outside of our own organization - including with other vets unless cleared with Procyon Wildlife first.

TRANSFERS

- No transfers from one foster to another or from a foster to another facility may be made without Pre-Approval from the Head Animal Care Coordinator.

EMERGENCY BACKUP PLAN

- Each Foster should have an emergency backup plan Preapproved by Head Animal Care Coordinator.
- This plan should include - a backup volunteer to cover one or more feedings, a transportation plan to return patients and their items to the centre should the foster be unable to continue for any length of time to care for them, and a designated family emergency contact that knows to contact us and/or can be contacted by us should the need arise.

EXCEPTIONS

- Any exception to these protocols must be Preapproved by the Custodian and/or Head Animal Care Coordinator.

Printed Foster Name: _____

Signature/Date: _____

By Signing above, I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to abide by these Protocols

Approved by: _____

Custodian *Head Animal Care Coordinator*