

## 2017 Raccoon Rehabilitation Questionnaire Response Report

**1. Please rate the importance of the following problems or issues related to raccoon rehabilitation in Wisconsin by selecting "1" next to the most important, "2" next to the second most important, and so on.**

- Responses: 37

	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Not enough licensed raccoon rehabilitators	68.57% 24	17.14% 6	8.57% 3	5.71% 2	35	3.49
Not enough resources to help finders determine if young raccoons they find are truly orphaned	5.56% 2	25.00% 9	27.78% 10	41.67% 15	36	1.94
Many raccoons orphaned due to relocation or removal of their mother	25.00% 9	47.22% 17	19.44% 7	8.33% 3	36	2.89
Orphans raised by unlicensed people are later brought to licensed rehabilitators	5.41% 2	13.51% 5	40.54% 15	40.54% 15	37	1.84

**2. In your experience, how important are the activities of Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (animal removal services) as a contributor to the number of orphaned raccoons brought to Wisconsin rehabilitators for care?**

- Responses: 37

Answer Choices	Responses	
Not important at all	13.51%	5
Somewhat important	45.95%	17
Very important	40.54%	15
Total		37

**3. Do you admit and provide care for raccoons at your facility?**

- Responses: 37

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	62.16%	23
No	37.84%	14
Total		37

**4. If you don't rehabilitate raccoons, please tell us why. (Check all that apply).**

- Responses: 16, Skipped: 21

Answer Choices	Responses	
I/we only do birds and/or herps	6.25%	1
I/we have concerns about disease/parasite transmission to other animals or people at my facility	43.75%	7
Care for other species requires all of my/our time and resources	68.75%	11
I/we have no space for raccoon cages	56.25%	9
I/we can't afford the required cages	12.50%	2
I/we can't afford the required food, medical treatments/vet services	25.00%	4
I/we lack the knowledge/experience/not licensed for raccoons	25.00%	4
I/we don't have enough help (volunteers/interns/staff) to provide care for this species	25.00%	4
I/we are not interested in working with this species	37.50%	6
There are too many raccoons in my area already	12.50%	2
Other (please specify)	37.50%	6

6 Other comments:

"Raccoons did not make the priority cut for me."

"I did raccoon rehab for 30 years, but now I have no time and space for them"

"Previously rehabbed raccoons---but too many people complained that they ruined gardens and nuisance...so I stopped. Too many on our property for too many years."

"They are extremely time and resource consumptive and require more time, energy and money to properly care for than I am willing to take on. I used to rehab them but have evolved in a different direction and prefer to utilize my skills and resources with other species. (mostly songbirds and raptors) Basically with raccoons, You can do raccoons, or, You can do everything else."

"I do not have any more room to expand"

"I do rehab raccoons."

**5. If you don't rehabilitate raccoons, what do you do when someone calls you about or brings you healthy raccoons they believe are orphaned? (Check all that apply).**

- Responses: 15, Skipped: 22

Answer Choices	Responses
Direct the finder to resources to help them make sure the raccoons are truly orphaned and if possible return them to their mother's care	60.00% 9
Refer the finder to the WI-DNR	26.67% 4
Refer the finder to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who takes raccoons	93.33% 14
Intake the raccoons but transfer them to another rehabilitator	20.00% 3
Intake the raccoons and euthanize them if no raccoon rehabilitator can take them.	13.33% 2
Other (please specify)	6.67% 1

1 Other comment:

"Euthanize when all other rehabilitators are at capacity"

**6. If you don't currently raise orphaned raccoons, or if you do raise them but have reached your limits on the number of raccoons for which you can provide care, you would consider raising them or increasing the number of orphaned raccoons you raise if... (Check all that apply)**

- Responses: 29, Skipped: 8

Answer Choices	Responses
WWRA provided a raccoon care training class or workshop that you could attend	6.90% 2
You had additional donations of food, caging materials, or help with cage building	41.38% 12
You raised them through the bottle feeding stage and then once they are weaned, you'd transfer them to someone with outside cages and release sites	27.59% 8
You received them after they'd been bottle-fed and weaned by someone else and you provided care for them in outdoor caging and released them when they were ready	13.79% 4
Other (please specify)	62.07% 18

(Comments from question 6 on next page)

18 Other comments:

"More volunteers or could afford to hire more help"

"Increase in trained volunteers to assist with care. WWRA training for raccoon volunteers."

"Volunteer assistance to care for them"

"I am not interested in rehabilitating raccoons and believe their populations are already at high capacity"

"Donations of vaccines"

"After this year/season...I am retiring from rehabbing."

"If I had enough space"

"Would also need additional staff/volunteers"

"They are adorable. I love them... And NO."

"I do not have volunteers so I can only care for a limited number."

"Extra funding for purchasing vaccines!"

"We had more space. We had more staff. We had more cages."

"We get overloaded with species we do admit, adding one more species would definitely put us in overload"

"Busy with other species"

"Could have more volunteers to help care for them."

"I simply have no more room to raise raccoons"

"I am not interested in rehabbing raccoons"

"I would be glad to supervise others to help care for the orphaned ones. The season is long and I need to be able to commit to them for the entire summer or find or pay someone to care for if we go on vacation. Furthermore, my vet is very reluctant to provide any medical care for my guys. I do get some help from Bay Beach."

**7. If you do rehabilitate raccoons what, if anything, limits your ability to take on additional healthy or treatable infant and juvenile raccoons for care? (Check all that apply).**

- Responses: 28, Skipped: 9

Answer Choices	Responses
I/we don't have the space for more/larger cages for this species	46.43% 13
I/we can't afford more/larger cages for this species	35.71% 10
I/we can't afford the necessary food, medical treatments/vet services	32.14% 9
I/we lack sufficient knowledge/experience with the species to take on more	0.00% 0
I/we don't have enough time or help (volunteers/interns/other staff) to provide care	75.00% 21
Care for other species requires my/our available time and resources	50.00% 14
I/we don't have enough release sites	17.86% 5
I don't have limits	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	10.71% 3

Total Respondents: 28

3 Other comments:

"I do not rehabilitate raccoons"

"It's too emotional to know people just shoot them because of nuisance."

"Cost of infant formula and vaccines for extra coons are big thing."

**8. If you do rehabilitate raccoons, do you ever need to euthanize healthy orphaned raccoons because you are at capacity for this species?**

- Responses: 22, Skipped: 15

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	36.36% 8
No	63.64% 14

**9. If you do rehabilitate raccoons, do you ever need to turn away orphaned raccoons because you are at capacity?**

- Responses: 23, Skipped: 14

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	86.96%	20
No	13.04%	3

**10. If you responded "Yes" to Question 9, what do you tell the finder to do with the raccoons they've found? (Check all that apply).**

- Responses: 22, Skipped: 15

Answer Choices	Responses	
Refer the finder to the WI-DNR	40.91%	9
Refer the finder to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who takes raccoons	77.27%	17
Intake the raccoons but transfer them to another rehabilitator	22.73%	5
Intake the raccoons and euthanize them if no raccoon rehabilitator can take them.	22.73%	5
Other (please specify)	31.82%	7

7 Other comments:

"or call me back and I WILL TAKE."

"I answered no but.... I often refer those in other areas to rehabbers as I end up fielding hundreds of calls every year from all over the state."

"I usually end up admitting more because of special circumstances"

"We annually put together a list of active licensed raccoon rehabilitators and their contact info. We share this with people who have raccoons from outside of our service area to help them find someone who can take them."

"If stable and older, suggest putting food outside for it/them and stop when older. Not the best solution but a chance."

"I have found that referring to other Rehabber doesn't help because most coon Rehabbers are at capacity."

"Consider training them as a foster if they meet requirements and are interested"