

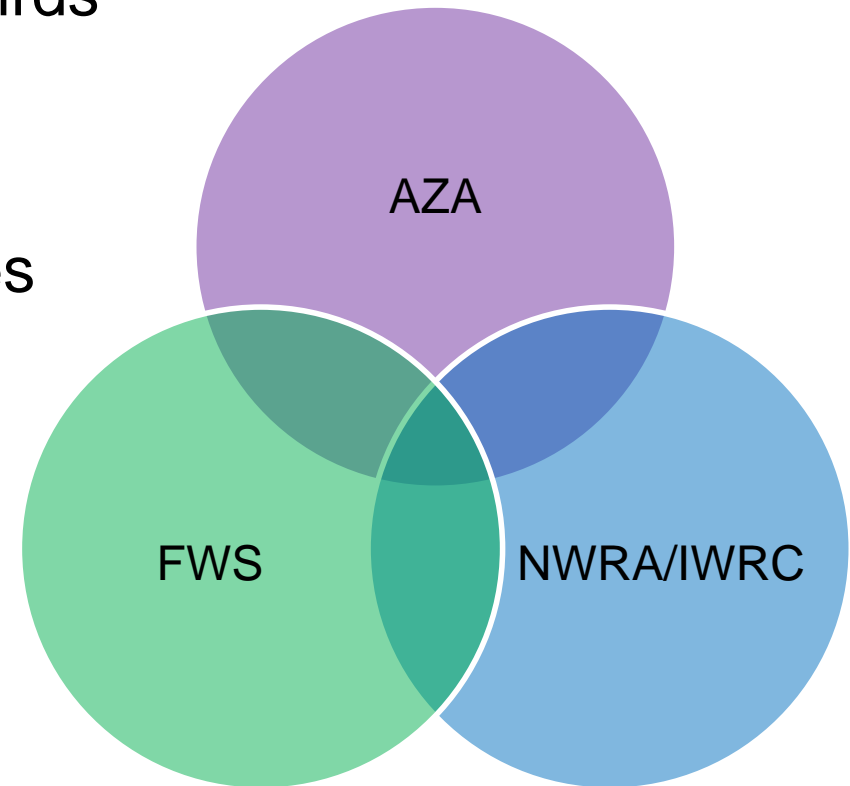


Native Bird Placement in Zoos & Aquariums

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Collaboration: We are stronger together

- Placement of non-releasable birds
- Research collaborations
- Information sharing
- Improve conservation outcomes



Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Vision

A world where all people respect, value and conserve wildlife and wild places.

Mission

Helps its members and the animals in their care thrive by providing services advancing animal welfare, public engagement and the conservation of wildlife.



**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

Wildlife Rehabbers

Caring for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife with the intent of releasing healthy individuals.

Goals:

- Release rehabilitated wildlife
- Educate and assist citizens
- Improve welfare
- Promote coexistence



National
WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS
Association



IWRC
International Wildlife
Rehabilitation Council

Fish & Wildlife



Vision

- Be a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

Mission

- Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

A shared vision

Working to improve conservation outcomes, welfare and engage people to care about wildlife



Partnerships & Opportunities

Partnerships

- Zoos/Aquariums and local rehabbers
 - NZP & City Wildlife
 - NZP & Wildlife Center of VA



Opportunities

- Learning from each other
- Break down barriers
- Cross training (vet and animal care); BTS tours
- Funding to support rehab care



The numbers.....

- Est: 64,000-254,000 birds enter 450+ rehab facilities each year (2016 data) in the US
- Release rate ~60%
- 800 species
- How many go to zoos/aquariums/nature centers?
 - Est 200
 - Exhibit vs ambassador?
 - Lifespan?
 - Mortality, morbidity?
 - Breeding?



Putting the animal first

- To be seen as unquestionable leaders in the field of animal welfare, AZA zoos/aquariums should critically review the choices we make in accepting wild birds with significant physical, affective, or behavioral issues into our facilities
- Honest and full communication about expectations and commitments is critical
- Many birds are not suitable candidates due to loss of limbs and resulting equilibrium or other problems, stress levels, or behavioral problems
- Long term complications must be considered



What makes a good rehab bird?

- Variable between taxa!
- Setting a rehab bird up for a successful life in human care begins with appropriate, well considered selection.
 - Will fracture's lead to secondary problems?
 - Big birds vs small birds differ in this criteria
 - Osteoarthritis, degenerative joint issues years after initial injury
 - Will amputations lead to secondary problems?
 - Large birds may have trouble maneuvering, balancing, maintaining body temp
 - Can the bird feed itself?
 - Beak injuries may lead to preening, feeding issues. May require more catch ups



What makes a good rehab bird?

- Feather problems?
 - Drooping/dragging wings, blood feather issues at molt, thermoregulation
 - Location of injury important (can it reach the area to preen?)
- Can it move normally?
 - 1 leg missing can cause balance issues that may lead to bumblefoot, lesions, open wounds
 - Missing toes may be less problematic
- Can it fend off cage mates if needed?
 - Decreased confidence in the bird if it can't defend itself or is picked on



What makes a good rehab bird?

- What is it's temperament?
 - Imprinted birds may become aggressive or territorial as adults
 - Pain, fear may mask the birds tractability
 - Chronic stress
- Can it make choices?



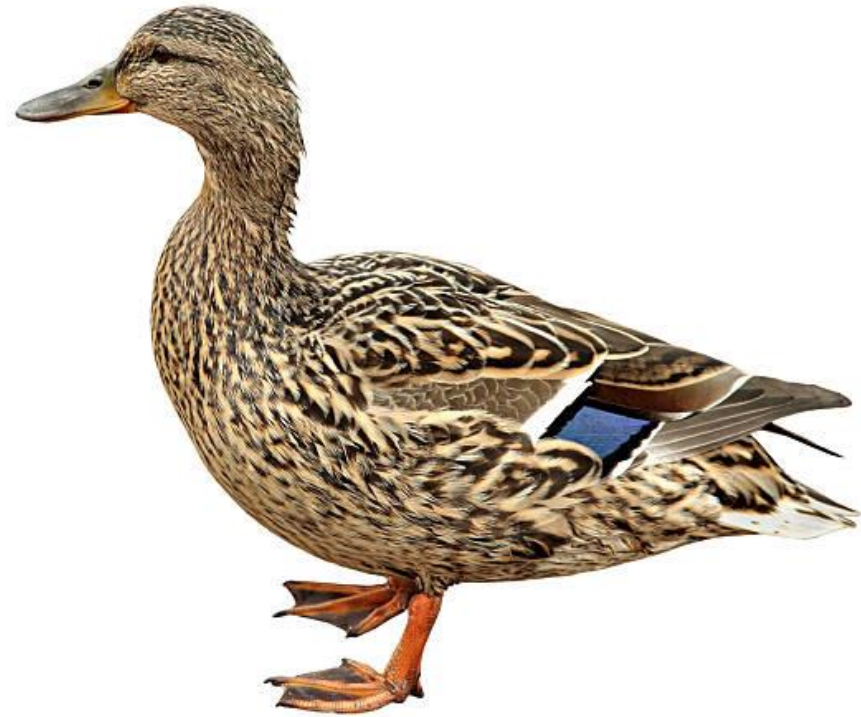
What **does** make a good rehab bird?!

- Move freely around enclosure
- Can make choices
- Able to perform self-care
- Confident and has a sense of control over its life
- Each bird is unique
- Facilities must have rigorous wellness programs in place to monitor birds for pain, fear, distress and must be ready to make the difficult decision to euthanize



We need your help!

- Feedback to rehabbers about what we're looking for
- Document mortality and morbidity
 - Trends in taxa
 - We may be surprised at the data
 - It may alter our thinking
- Share information



Audience Participation

- Everyone has 27 post it notes
- There are 12 TAGs
- For each TAG, list 2 criteria you think are most important to consider when placing in a zoo/aquarium
- Example of rehab/zoo partnership?
- You have 20 mins

Cosmetically
perfect

Must be able to
fly

Ex of zoo/rehab
partnership

Panel Discussion

- Summary of post-it-note results
- Discussion with Kai Williams,
Director IWRC



Further reading and resources

- AZA AASAG Handbook
- AZA Animal Welfare Committee
- Lacy, K. 2017. Selection Process for non-releasable birds. IAATE Conference, Atlanta.
- Wildlife in Education: A guide for the care and use of program animals. 2nd edition. Editors: Buhl, G., Schlieps, J. and Smith, L. 2018. NWRA
- NWRA nwra.wildlife.org
- IWRA theiwrc.org



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