Wildlife Rehabilitation is...

The process by which injured, sick and orphaned wild animals receive the care necessary to ensure their successful return to the wild.

Wildlife Rehabilitation concerns itself with every aspect of wild animals' wellbeing:
- healing the sick,
- repairing the broken,
- strengthening the weak, and
- raising and training the young.

Dr. Kevin Fowler (right) & Melanie Haire (back) examine an injured otter It also includes educating the general public about the need to protect wildlife. Education is key to the survival of all species, and rehabilitators represent a significant force for that process. One 45 minute education program in a classroom can prevent the need for the rehabilitation of hundreds of wild animals that, otherwise, might have been unintentionally poisoned or orphaned.

AWARE volunteers spend most of their time:

- preparing baby formulas,
- feeding infants,
- monitoring growth rates,
- administer medications, and
- cleaning cages. Syringe nipple feeding an Eastern Cottontail

Working at a rehabilitation center is difficult, heart wrenching work. Nevertheless, the release of a healthy, adult animal that you have fed since its eyes were closed is a reward few people have the opportunity to experience. If you think you would enjoy:
- working 16 to 18 hour days,
- cleaning baby bottoms and cages,
- feeding so many animals so frequently that you find yourself constantly behind schedule, and then
- starting the whole process over again at 7am the next day,

All for FREE, then wildlife rehabilitation is right up your alley.

Puppet feeding a young, Great Horned Owl More information:
- About wildlife rehabilitation, from the IWRC and the NWRA
- Wildlife Rehabilitation: Is it for you? (IWRC)
- Trainings and Conferences
- Becoming an AWARE volunteer: Animal Care , Hands-on Days , Other Volunteer Service
- Becoming a Georgia Wildlife Rehabilitator