

ABOUT US

“A Support network for Ireland’s Wildlife Rehabilitators, their volunteers and veterinary professionals”

What does IWRA stand for: Ireland’s Wildlife Rehabilitators Association

Introduction to wildlife rehabilitation

Ireland has a rich variety of wildlife and is lucky to have a small but dedicated community of highly experienced knowledgeable people who, for many years have worked either full-time or part-time rehabilitating injured or orphaned Irish species. To date there has been an informal alliance of these people as they support each other with advice, rescue, transport and fundraising. It is the overwhelming view of many rehabilitators that this should now be put on a more official and permanent footing. Therefore, we have established a representative body called “Ireland’s Wildlife Rehabilitators Association” (IWRA).

What is IWRA?

IWRA was founded by a voluntary group of well-established Wildlife Rehabilitators with the aim to assist those looking for a supportive platform to advance their knowledge and skills as a rehabilitator and to give and receive advice in areas of their expertise. Licensed rehabilitators, fosterers or volunteers and veterinary professionals are welcome to join us as a member and have access to all the educational information and support needed to be successful in this field.

We provide members of the public contact details of established licensed rehabilitators and veterinary professionals in Ireland and how to support those organisations.

Membership of IWRA is open to NPWS licensed rehabilitators and fosterers, qualified vets and registered veterinary nurses. Rehabilitator and Foster members are required to have a license from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Short Term Objectives:

- a) Provide an inclusive space for all rehabilitators, veterinary professionals and volunteers working in this sector.
- b) Provide members of the public access to a community of reputable experienced licensed rehabilitators and veterinary professionals in Ireland.
- c) Help members expand the support network, whose sole focus is on providing the best care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in Ireland.
- d) Encourage standardisation of care and build a shared knowledge base of processes, techniques, and best practice, to ensure a consistent high level of care maintained by every IWRA member.
- e) Set acceptable standards for the practice of wildlife rehabilitation in Ireland and help members attain and maintain those standards.
- f) Raise the profile of rehabilitators as a group who collectively and individually are performing much needed work that is not covered or funded by Government or Local Authority bodies.

- g) Provide practical support for rehabilitators in achieving best results for their own particular animal group.
- h) Build relationships with other groups that are helping to protect Irish wildlife, and advocate on behalf of its members and represent them in dealing with other relevant agencies.

Long term objectives

- Continue to expand the network of members.
- To provide opportunities to financially support rehabilitators in a structured capacity.
- Attain discounts for educational courses, rehabilitation equipment and materials.

How does IWRA support its members?

- Providing a direct connection between established rehabilitators.
- Providing educational tools such as online tutorials, research info, listing courses and conferences in wildlife rehabilitation in Ireland and further afield.
- Promoting experienced rehabbers and centres across Ireland on the website.
- Advocate on behalf of wildlife rehabilitators practicing in Ireland in order to raise standards of care, educate the wildlife community, and represent its members in dealing with other agencies.
- Provide a private platform to discuss cases and seek advice.
- Keep up to date with developments in our field.
- Strength in numbers when negotiating with other agencies.
- Strength in numbers when negotiating fees for training, equipment and materials.

Why was IWRA established?

To help unite wildlife rehabilitators, their volunteers and veterinary professionals across Ireland under an inclusive organisation that welcomes members willing to work towards the highest standard of wildlife care.

Rehabilitators need support through communication, education and financial support to help with running rehabilitation facilities to a high standard.

When was IWRA established?

Founded in 2021 by mutual agreement of established rehabilitators, that believe wildlife in Ireland should have the opportunity to be cared for by experienced rehabilitators, supported by a strong network of people, who maintain and uphold the highest level of care, protocols and current best practice.

Where is IWRA based?

Irish wildlife is localised and care needs to match this, we are a non-centralised body. Experienced rehabilitators are based all across Ireland and local licensed rehabilitators can be found on the IWRA website.