**Fundamentals of Wildlife Rehabilitation Kim Blomme, RVT, CWR**

This short course will explore the basics you need to know before delving into the world of wildlife rehabilitation. Wildlife patients present many challenges for the veterinary practice team in terms of identification, handling, assessing injury, treatment, captive housing to prevent further harm and feeding. As well, there are legal considerations and communication challenges with the public.

At the end of this session the Veterinary Technologist will be able to answer the following questions:

What is it? How do I hold it? What is wrong with it? How do I treat it? What do I feed it? How can I contain it? What do I do now?

1. Natural history – what is it? Trophic categories birds – beak & feet - identifying “families” of birds; Trophic categories mammals – teeth; Migratory vs non-migratory; using field guides; breeding seasons
2. Clinic considerations & Legal considerations – should we accept this? – Migratory Birds Conventions Act; Wildlife Act; Role of the Veterinary practice in providing care; expertise and comfort level of staff; what procedures do you have in place? How will this animal be handled from intake to transfer – who does what? Zoonosis. Role of permitted Wildlife Rehabilitators; co-ordinating with other wildlife agencies (F & W ; CWS)
3. Triage, stabilization, and housing – how do I hold it? What is wrong? Why is it here? (Baby vs injured); how do I treat it? What do I feed it? Triage and stabilization; role of stress; hydration; wound care; fracture stabilization; treat vs euthanize;
4. Captive housing and special considerations – tail guards for falcons; donuts for grebes & loons; duckling care; small songbirds; gulls; weird birds (cormorants, herons, kingfishers); jackrabbits.
5. Nutrition & feeding – trophic categories; substitutes; oral tube feeding; presentation of food
6. Soft skills – talking to the public about wildlife- can I keep it? When is keeping wildlife NOT against the law? When is keeping wildlife appropriate?
7. Babies! Will wildlife abandon their young because we touched it? Reuniting baby wildlife with their parental units – it can be done! Raising babies – it can be done! Do’s & don’ts of raising baby wildlife.