



Application for **SPECIAL USE PERMIT**

Department of Planning and Development Review  
Land Use Administration Division  
900 E. Broad Street, Room 511  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
(804) 646-6304  
<http://www.richmondgov.com/>

Application is hereby submitted for: (check one)

- special use permit, new**
- special use permit, plan amendment**
- special use permit, text only amendment**

**Project Name/Location**

Property Address: 7345 Longview Drive Date: 1/29/20  
 Tax Map #: C0040377006 Fee: \$300.00  
 Total area of affected site in acres: 1.061

(See **page 6** for fee schedule, please make check payable to the "City of Richmond")

**Zoning**

Current Zoning: residential R-2 Single family

Existing Use: residential

**Proposed Use**

(Please include a detailed description of the proposed use in the required applicant's report)

Wildlife Rehabilitation (see attached)

Existing Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this property subject to any previous land use cases?

Yes

No

If Yes, please list the Ordinance Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant/Contact Person:** Patricia A. DeZem

Company: N/A

Mailing Address: 7345 Longview Drive

City: Richmond State: VA Zip Code: 23225

Telephone: (804) 466-1151 Fax: ( )

Email: pat.dezem@icloud.com

**Property Owner:** Patricia A. DeZem

If Business Entity, name and title of authorized signee: \_\_\_\_\_

(The person or persons executing or attesting the execution of this Application on behalf of the Company certifies that he or she has or have been duly authorized and empowered to so execute or attest )

Mailing Address: 7345 Longview Drive

City: Richmond State: VA Zip Code: 23225

Telephone: (804) 466-1151 Fax: ( )

Email: pat.dezem@icloud.com

**Property Owner Signature:** Patricia A. DeZem

The names, addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of all owners of the property are required. Please attach additional sheets as needed. If a legal representative signs for a property owner, please attach an executed power of attorney. **Faxed or photocopied signatures will not be accepted.**

**NOTE:** Please attach the required plans, checklist, and a check for the application fee (see Filing Procedures for special use permits)

City of Richmond  
Special Use Permit for Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Applicant's Report: Patricia A. DeZern  
January 29, 2020

## Background

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits.** The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) licenses wildlife rehabilitators to provide care for injured and orphaned wildlife. The goal is to return wildlife to their natural habitats. DGIF requires extensive initial hands on training and supervision and 8 hours of course education annually. Wildlife Rehabilitators are subject to State rules and regulations and inspections and must submit reports to DGIF each year. In Virginia Wildlife Rehabilitators are not allowed to request donations for services, but can accept donations.

**The Need.** There are only 200-300 permitted wildlife rehabilitators in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Each year the demand for wildlife rehabilitation far exceeds the capacity of area wildlife rehabbers. I understand the number of wildlife rehabilitators is declining due to the difficulty of the work, high level of stress and rising out of pocket expenses.

## Applicant Proposal

I am a member of AWARE, Alliance of Wild Animal Rehabilitators & Educators. AWARE is an all volunteer non-profit organization working with concerned citizens and wildlife rehabilitators. AWARE has relationships with local veterinarians, who assist with diagnosis and treatment, and with large facilities such as the Wildlife Center of Virginia. Animal control officers, police, vets and the general public may assist with transporting orphaned and injured animals for wildlife rehabilitation. AWARE provides educational programs to organizations and schools, primarily in the Richmond Metro area. All proceeds from programs go to the care of injured and orphaned wildlife so they can be returned to the wild.

I obtained my first Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit in 2018 and have since cared for 50 small animals. On January 22, 2020, DGIF informed me that I must obtain a Special Use Permit from the City of Richmond. I am, therefore, requesting a Special Use Permit to provide wildlife rehabilitation of small animals at my home at 7345 Longview Drive.

**Rehabilitation area.** I use my laundry room (7 foot 7 inches by 8 foot 4.5 inches) as my rehabilitation room (see attached photo). After the baby animals have reached a certain size indoors and injured animals have sufficiently recovered, they must become acclimated to the outdoors in cages. I have several secure cages located in a wooded area of my property that meet the needs of small animals. Once acclimated, the animals will be returned to their native habitat.

### **Why the special use will not be detrimental:**

- My home is situated on a 1.061 A wooded lot (see attached survey plat). The back of the property slopes down to a creek with no homes visible on the opposite side of the wooded ravine. There is a buffer of trees between my house and neighbors on the sides and road front.
- The small animals will not roam at large in the neighborhood.

I hope that my proposal will be approved so that I can carry on this valuable service to the community.

Response to Additional Questions for Applicant  
7345 Longview Drive  
from Zoning Administration  
March 5, 2020

In response to the additional questions from Janell Baker, Zoning Administration, PDR, I have addressed each of them below.

**1. Provide list of wildlife animals allowed by licensure for shelter at dwelling.**

I want to rehabilitate small orphaned or injured animals in my home, such as birds, chipmunks, bunnies, squirrels, turtles and opossums, with the goal of return to their natural habitat. I do not accept larger animals for rehabilitation, such as raccoons, foxes, or deer.

Since the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) learned a Special Use Permit is required within the City of Richmond, I am no longer permitted to possess wildlife. The attached 2020 Category IV Permit only allows me to care for wildlife at permitted facilities. The DGIF process requires approval of the Special Use Permit prior to issuing a permit allowing me to possess wildlife.

**2. Will use require additional staff (paid or volunteer) to execute business operations?**

No.

**3. Describe in detail services being offered to injured and orphaned wildlife animals.**

I provide age and species appropriate nutrition, care and housing. For very young animals this means frequent hand feedings, heat from a heating pad, and humidity. Injured animals may require special care at the direction of a veterinarian. As the babies mature, they are provided enriched environments to help develop the skills needed for successful return to their natural habitat. Prior to release, animals are placed in outdoor cages to acclimate to the sights, sounds, scents, temperatures and weather conditions in nature.

**4. Provide the maximum number of injured and orphaned wildlife animals allowed for keeping in the home at any one time.**

I can accept only a few baby animals at any given time due to the extensive amount of time required to hand feed them. I must also limit the number of animals I accept due to the small space available in my rehabilitation room and acclimation cages.