



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: 4647 Arrowhead Road Date: 8/23/19
 Tax Map #: C0020044024 Fee: \$300
 Total area of affected site in acres: basement room and 8'x16' outdoor aviary

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

Zoning

Current Zoning: residential

Existing Use: residential

Proposed Use

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

Wildlife Rehabilitation -see attachment
 Existing Use: _____

Is this property subject to any previous land use cases?

Yes No If Yes, please list the Ordinance Number: _____

Applicant/Contact Person: Barbara Slatcher

Company: _____
 Mailing Address: 4647 Arrowhead Rd
 City: Richmond, VA State: VA Zip Code: 23235
 Telephone: (804) 677-6676 Fax: ()
 Email: bgsletcher@gmail.com

Property Owner: Barbara Slatcher and Wayne Albrecht

If Business Entity, name and title of authorized signee: *Barbara Slatcher*

(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: 4647 Arrowhead Rd
 City: Richmond State: VA Zip Code: 23235
 Telephone: (804) 677-6676 Fax: ()
 Email: bgsletcher@gmail.com

Property Owner Signature: *Wayne Albrecht Barbara Slatcher*

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)

Richmond City Special Use Permit for Wildlife Rehabilitation

There are anywhere between 200-300 permitted wildlife rehabilitators in Virginia. We have to apply for an annual permit through the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Initial requirements to become a licensed wildlife rehabilitator are several hundred hours of actual training and course training (8 hrs/year), as well as a sponsor that will write a letter of recommendation, and a vet who will write a letter of recommendation and agree to help with diagnosis and treatment for injured animals. Our facilities (usually homes) are inspected by DGIF biologists. A bird rehabber also requires federal permitting. Wildlife rehabbers are listed on the DGIF website and sometimes have group affiliations and their own website or Facebook page. They can't charge for services, but can accept donations. The groups are non-profit affiliations to allow tax deductions for donations. Rehabbers generally have to do fund raising events or pay for supplies themselves. Everyone is a volunteer except at a couple of large facilities in Roanoke, Waynesboro and Blue Ridge. Rehabbers are assisted by animal control officers, police and vets with transporting injured animals, the general population usually transports orphans. Rehabbers work at least 12 hours a day to care and feed orphans, older animals are held, fed and treated for injuries or illness, usually for months. Wildlife Rehabilitation has 2 national organizations that provide best in class training, books, and requirements for care and housing (cage size, food nutrition) first aid and medical treatment are overseen by vets. The point of rehabilitation is to heal and raise animals in a way in which they can be released into their natural environments.

I have been a state permitted wildlife rehabilitator since 2011. In 2008 I started volunteering to help rehabbers with cage cleanup and intake, and started a non-profit, Phoenix: A Wildlife Alliance, to help the folks I was working with attract donations. I was a career marketer at the time. I stopped working in corporate marketing and started focusing on work in conservation and Boards. I got my wildlife permit to fill a huge need. Many more people are leaving wildlife rehab than coming in. It is getting more difficult and expensive. I was in Hanover County until four years ago, when I moved to Richmond City.

I am one of only a handful of licensed bird rehabilitators in the area and handle the majority of calls (about 20/day in the summer, 1 or 2 the rest of the year). I

take in birds from across the region, from Williamsburg to Fredericksburg and south to Dinwiddie. The maximum I can handle in a year is 180, which is really too many, many people I have to turn down. I have special cages and incubators in a couple of dedicated unfinished rooms in my basement. I have an 8'x16' aviary in the middle of my wooded back yard to prepare the birds for release. Baby birds can take anywhere from 6 weeks to 3 months to raise and release. Our house is 3200 sf plus the unfinished room, that has a door to the back yard. We have 1.2 acres that backs up to the James River Park, which is perfect habitat for the birds I release.

Home rehabilitators are primarily how wildlife is rehabilitated because wild animals don't do well in large facilities and each species requires specialized care and housing. This is especially true with birds. There are at least 300 different species of birds that live or fly through Virginia. Birds require more training to handle and very few people are willing to do it. In the baby season, hatchlings need to be fed every 20 minutes for 12 hours a day. I don't use volunteers because it is really easy to kill a baby bird or do harm. I spend about \$4,000 of my own money and take in donations to fund it. I do not keep animals longer than 3 months.

I was the only wild bird rehabilitator in the City of Richmond, although there are a few mammal rehabbers. This year DGIF told me I needed to get a Special Use Permit before I could get my wildlife rehab permit from them. After discussing with my City Council Representative, Kristin Larson, it was determined that there was only zoning for domestic animals in the City of Richmond so I would have to file for a Special Use Permit. I have not been able to rehab this summer, which left nobody in Richmond to take in wild birds. In addition to the general population, I have relationships with many of the local vets and animal controls who were left with no options this year.