

ACCREDITED REHABILITATOR STATUS



Over the years a growing number of **Raptor Rescue** rehabilitator members have attained Accredited Status and have been presented with their certificate.

This means that members of the public can be assured that any injured bird taken into care by a **Raptor Rescue Accredited Rehabilitator** will receive the best of attention from someone with suitable experience and facilities to care for the casualty in a proper and lawful manner.

Accredited Rehabilitators Status allows rehabilitators to apply to **Raptor Rescue** for assistance with specialised items aimed directly towards raptor rehabilitation and care, such as travelling boxes, catch nets, heat pads, hospital units and hacking aviaries.

Raptor Rescue has always made it a priority to promote a high standard of care and rehabilitation throughout its membership. However, it is always difficult to put restrictions forward for others to comply with. On 31st January 1996 the Licensed Rehabilitation Keeper (L.R.K.) scheme was abolished. Under that scheme L.R.K.s received inspections by Department of the Environment (now Animal Health) Wildlife Inspectors. One of the main reasons for the demise of the scheme was the removal from Schedule 4 of many of the birds that are commonly taken into care.

With the LRK scheme being discontinued there appeared to be no standards for people to aim for regarding facilities or guidelines on actual rehabilitation. Following consultation with our rehabilitator members, it was encouraging to see that all thought that the Charity should have a *Code of Practice* which included a list of the minimum requirements that should be expected of anyone involved with the care of wild birds of prey.

The requirements were formulated from a questionnaire completed by the Charity's rehabilitators and subsequently updated by the Board of Trustees.

Any member who can satisfy the requirements concerned is eligible to apply to the Trustees of the Charity for Raptor Rescue Accredited Rehabilitator Status. This will involve the applicant completing an application form to confirm their experience and facilities and returning it, with photographs, to the Secretary (application form in section 11). It is not practical for the Trustees to visit every rehabilitator before the approval is given but they will endeavour to visit the premises as soon as possible afterwards.

Minimum requirements for accreditation are:

- A TRANSPORT BOX
 - An EXAMINATION / TREATMENT area
 - An INTENSIVE CARE UNIT / HOSPITAL CAGE
 - A RECOVERY / SECLUSION AVIARY *
 - A DRUGS and MEDICINE CUPBOARD / BOX
 - A FLUID REPLACEMENT KIT
 - GENERAL HUSBANDRY EQUIPMENT
 - ACCURATE & DETAILED RECORDS
- The recovery / seclusion aviary should be of the type specified under facilities (part 2) and must be located well away from any public access points.

When an application is accepted, the rehabilitators will receive a welcome letter and their accreditation certificate along with a copy of the **Raptor Rescue** 'Rehabilitator's Handbook including the Code of Practice'. Their contact details will be added to the National Help line list of accredited rehabilitators.

If the Board of Trustees is unable to accept the application then the applicant will be notified and advised of the reason. If appropriate, they can re-apply when they have addressed any issues that the Trustees raised.

Annual review & survey

- In January each year they will receive the annual survey request.
- If they wish to continue as an accredited rehabilitator, they must complete and return their survey form.
- If we do not receive their survey by 31st March of that year, they will be taken off the accredited rehabbers list and asked to return all loaned equipment

Resources

All requests for resources must put be to the Board of Trustees in writing (letter or e-mail). These will be reviewed at the next quarterly Trustee meeting to be held (Meetings are usually January, March, June, September).

Accredited rehabilitators can apply for the following:

- First aid supplies
- Carry boxes
- Catch net*
- Hospital unit*
- Portable hack aviary*
- Mileage costs#
- Vet bills#

*There is a high cost of purchasing these items, therefore applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Considering the number of birds handled each year and with regard to hack aviaries, the location (as we may have one in the area already). These items are distributed on a LOAN basis and must be returned if no longer **Raptor Rescue** accredited.

#Mileage costs and vet bills can only be claimed for birds that are passed on via our National Helpline Number. *(All requests for mileage and vet bills will be checked against the report from the National Helpline for eligibility).*



**RAPTOR
RESCUE**

Registered Charity No. 283733

Accredited Rehabilitator

This is to certify that The Raptor Rescues Board of Trustees are satisfied that

Name of Rehabilitator

And their facilities meet the required standards set down by Raptor Rescue to be Accredited Rehabilitator(s)

S Davidson

Chairman: Steve Davidson

**National Help & Advice Line: 0870 241 0609
Online www.raptorrescue.org.uk**

The UK's leading specialist Bird of Prey rehabilitation organisation