Objectives
After completing this lesson:

- Define rehabilitation, medicine, survivability, morbidity, and mortality.
- Compare and contrast wildlife rehabilitation versus wildlife medicine.
- Compare and contrast disease monitoring versus surveillance.
- Identify 3 actions that the student can take to impact wildlife health.
- Describe what to do when an injured songbird, turtle, or rabbit is found.

Syllabus

- Wildlife Medicine – Veterinary care of species found free-living in natural and native habitats.
  - Wildlife rehabilitation vs. wildlife medicine
    - Individual animal vs. population
    - Facility vs. field triage
    - Disease monitoring vs. disease surveillance

- Wildlife Rehabilitation
  - Reasons to Rehabilitate Wildlife
    - Compassion/human enrichment
    - Promoting ecosystem health
    - Doctrine of state ownership
      - Wildlife is one of our natural resources
    - Responsible stewardship
    - Disease monitoring
      - Examples: West Nile virus, Rabies

For more information visit the Wildlife Medical Clinic website at http://vetmed.illinois.edu/wmc/
Unique challenges of working with wild animals
   - Cost of Care
   - Laws
     * To provide medical care
     * To prevent private ownership
   - Wild animals hide pain and illness
   - Effect of stress on captive care of wild animals
   - Challenges with safe handling of wildlife
   - Providing appropriate housing can be challenging

When wild animals can’t go back to the wild; factors to consider
   - Survivability
   - Reproductive viability
   - Population dynamics/habitat availability
   - Options for non-releasable wild animals

What you can do
   - Gain a basic understanding of science
   - Learn how to become a wildlife veterinarian:
     * How to become a veterinarian
     * Special training for working with non-traditional species
     * Understand the difference between a wildlife veterinarian and a companion animal veterinarian
   - Pet health
     * Get your pets vaccinated and keep them indoors
   - Don’t keep wildlife as pets
   - Responsible interactions with wildlife.
     * Bird-feeders
     * Trash removal, not littering; Recycling
     * Backyard conservation
     * Staying safe around wildlife
   - What to do if you find a wild animal that needs help

Evaluation
Wildlife Encounters provides a set of 8-10 assessment questions for each Lesson, written for three grade levels, to help students gauge their understanding of the lesson topics. When the assessment questions are used as a pre- and post-lesson tool, educators will be able to measure the degree of student
understanding and effectiveness of material presentation. Students will appreciate their growth in understanding and accomplishment.

Projects and Activities
Wildlife Encounters Lesson 4: All doctors work to provide the best care for their patients. Medical doctors that care for humans must become knowledgeable and skilled to care for people of all ages and backgrounds. Veterinarians do the same for animals such as your family's pet dog or the animals produced for food. Wildlife veterinarians provide for the health and welfare of wild animals that live in the wild and also those that are kept in zoos. Some wildlife veterinarians provide care to wild animals that are found and brought to the hospital while others work on populations of wildlife in their natural habitats. Wildlife Medicine is the practice of providing for the care and health of animals found living in the wild. This lesson is about the people who care for wild animals when they become sick or hurt.

Backyard Birdfeeder Activity:
This worksheet provides students with instructions for creating a birdfeeder made from household recyclable items. This activity can be used to augment a broader discussion of habitat and resource use of wildlife and backyard conservation efforts that can have a positive impact on native wildlife. This activity guide is found in the Teacher’s Resources folder for Lesson 4.

First Aid Kit for Pets
Veterinary medicine offers students the opportunity to explore an incredible array of topics from pet care and wildlife medicine to public health and food production. Many students own a family pet and are familiar with the traditional role of the small animal veterinarian. Engage students in discussions about preparedness in the event of an emergency and how they help in providing care to their pet. This activity guide is found in the Teacher’s Resources folder for Lesson 4.

Schedule a Visit to your classroom from the Wildlife Medical Clinic Birds of Prey:
Available for the Champaign-Urbana, IL and surrounding community, the Wildlife Medical Clinic offers educators the opportunity to have the Wildlife Medical Clinic bring its resident birds of prey to the classroom. Our veterinary students will introduce your students to our birds and will discuss topics ranging from natural history, species adaptations, and ecosystem interactions to veterinary medicine and conservation. Classroom visits will be based on availability and will be free of charge when associated with class participation in Wildlife Encounters. Visit http://vetmed.illinois.edu/wmc/pr_visits.html to schedule your visit. Classes are encouraged to explore the ways to support the work of the University of Illinois Wildlife Medical Clinic found in the Teacher’s Resources section.

For more information visit the Wildlife Medical Clinic website at http://vetmed.illinois.edu/wmc/
Educational Loan Kits:
Educational loan kits developed by the Urbana Park District, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Wildlife Encounters are available for classroom use in the Champaign area and surrounding communities. Kits may be reserved in advance and borrowed for two weeks for a minimal charge. Each kit contains a comprehensive, standards-based activity guide and accompanying materials. Visit the Urbana Park District Anita Purves Nature Center website at http://www.urbanaparks.org/naturecenter/ to find out more about the Educational Loan Kits. For educators not in the Champaign-Urbana, IL area, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Educational Trunks are available throughout the state of Illinois. Visit http://dnr.state.il.us/education/ to find a resource center near you as well as other educational resources.

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Help us meet your future needs and improve Wildlife Encounters:
Visit the Wildlife Encounters Assessment Survey for Educators in the Teacher’s Resources section and complete a short questionnaire regarding your experience using Wildlife Encounters. Educators that complete the survey will receive a full color poster for their classroom featuring the Wildlife Medical Clinic birds of prey.

Thank you for your support of the University of Illinois Wildlife Medical Clinic.