



3930 Novaline Lane, Jacksonville, FL 32277  
(904) 779-5569  
[www.wildlifecoalition.com](http://www.wildlifecoalition.com)

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## **Board Introduction**

### **History**

The Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida began in 1997 in Barbara Y. Tidwell's backyard. It was evolved out of the express need to find a safe haven for orphaned, injured, and displace native wildlife, who through no fault of their own, were pushed from their homes or injured due to development in the Northeast Florida area.

Over a seven-year period, Barbara worked to establish a designated place to take these native wildlife animals in distress and rehabilitate and release them back into a safe habitat, Barbara met with mayors, city officials, and established domestic animal shelters in the area to no avail. While her idea was considered noble, there seemed to be no funding or real interest in developing such an organization at a city level.

In 2003, as development continued, and more animals were brought to Barbara's backyard by concerned citizens, she approached the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council for help since city planning was their mission and development was at the root cause of this animal crisis. They listened and did see the connection. While they had no ability to fund the organization, they did provide a planning team to assist with the development of a 501(c) 3 and support staff to establish this professional organization. Then Barbara applied for and obtained a wildlife rehabilitation permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

At this point, Barbara went into the community to solicit donations of land, buildings, cages, and equipment to construct an official wildlife site where animals in distress could be housed and treated. She then found appropriate release sites where the rehabilitated animals could be released back into their natural habitat in order to continue the circle of life. She then began to solicit board members to support the bylaws of the organization.

Next, animal volunteers and veterinarians were found from all over the city to assist Barbara with the triage, care and treatment of these orphaned, injured, and displaced animals.

All these services have been provided through caring citizen donations, fundraisers, volunteer staff, and veterinarian personnel. Now it is time for the next step after over 20 years...

## **Mission/Vision**

To ensure respect for all wildlife through education and conservation, while providing orphaned, injured, and displaced animals with a second chance at life.

## **Goals**

- To obtain land for the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center
- Solicit contractors and volunteers to build the wildlife complex
- Develop college student volunteer base
- Continue and grow statewide pre-vet student internship program
- Expand our veterinarian drop centers and support
- Develop on-going fundraising activities to support the wildlife center
  - Regular corporate donations
  - Grants
  - FWC funding opportunities
  - Zoo Fall Festival Fundraiser
  - Mail outs to past donors

## **Board Member Expectations**

The Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida is a 501(C) 3 educating the public since 2003. Our mission is to rescue and rehabilitate orphaned, injured, and displaced native wildlife in Northeast Florida, while educating children and the public about the benefits of living in harmony with nature. We then return the animals to their natural habitats where they can thrive and continue the circle of life.

As a prospective board member, you will be expected to:

- Pay your dues (\$25 –Jan.) and liability insurance (\$100-Aug.) every year = \$125
- Provide a short biography for our website and FWC files
- Attend all board meetings (The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every other month – Jan, March, May, July, September, November)
- Review the minutes from the last meeting when they are emailed to you approximately 1 week before each meeting and email your comments to the president
- RSVP for each meeting by replying to the President's email requesting you to do so
- Complete your "Volunteer Hour Log" every month and email it to the president 2 weeks before each board meeting
- Attend all fundraising events and participate in the planning and preparation for these events if possible
- Use your social media to promote the mission and goals of the organization
- Network with your friends and associates about the organization and its role in our community in an effort to gain new volunteers and support to carry on our mission

## **BOARD SELECTION PROCEDURE**

- 1) Potential board member expresses interest to the board president or a board member to join the board.
- 2) They are invited to our next board meeting as a guest to meet our board.
- 3) Potential board member is given a board packet with board history, expectations, goals, and application to return to the board president.
- 4) The application will be reviewed voted on by the board and the president will call the applicant with the decision.



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## **BOARD MEMBER APPLICATION**

### **General Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET APT# CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) HOME ( ) CELL

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours do you think can you commit to WRCNEF each month? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think you would be able to attend the majority of the six yearly board meetings? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Board meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every other month; i.e. Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov)

Do you have any experience with wildlife organizations? If so, what is/are the name(s) of the organization(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of your current profession and educational background:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of any special skills, knowledge, or experiences with that might be useful in your capacity as a WRCNEF board member.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief summary of how you think you can benefit the Wildlife Rescue Coalition of Northeast Florida as a board member:

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Please provide a short biography for the WRCNEF files and website.

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Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_