



Urban Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitation's mission is to provide compassionate quality care to urban wildlife in need, with a special focus on wild mammals, through rehabilitative care and public education programs that teach peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife. We are a non-profit organization serving the five boroughs of New York City. UUWR began out of the need to address the orphaned and injured mammal wildlife of NYC found by the public and other non profit domestic animal organizations.



UUWR strives to help as many injured and orphaned wild mammals as possible with the limited resources currently available to us. Currently rehabilitating out of our homes, we are working to open a pop-up seasonal center, followed by a permanent facility in New York City.

Another important facet of our mission is education. It is important for the general public to learn how the animals around us contribute to a healthy ecosystem so we can help reduce the amount of animals who come into our care due to human error and a lack of knowledge. UUWR offers education programs as a part of our services which we hope will foster respect, inspiration, and knowledge in our community to create a more sustainable environment for future generations and animals to live in.

UUWR is working to harness the recent upswing in interest about urban wildlife and our native ecosystem. Native plants are surging in popularity and the general public is learning about why they are needed. Backyard and rooftop beekeeping is trending, and concern over pollinators is becoming more widely known. Waterway cleanup is at the forefront of city and national policy. Birding is a popular pastime, and coyote sightings excite people now, rather than scare them. Our group is a part of all of this, helping to educate the public about our important native wildlife and its habitat, all the way down to the underappreciated squirrel and Virginia opossum, both a valuable part of our ecosystem!

Our organization faces a bottleneck at the final phase of rehabilitation. Before being released, the wildlife in our care need to spend a couple of weeks in an outdoor cage to acclimate to the weather, sounds, and smells of their native environment. Outdoor caging also provides the space needed for the wildlife to develop muscle strength and the climbing and jumping skills they will require to survive in the wild. However, we are apartment-dwellers with limited yard access, and we are limited in the total amount of animals we can intake based on the few outdoor cages to which we currently have access.



We are looking for partners who have private outside areas where we can build inconspicuous cages. We are happy to work with the landowners to construct them in ways that blend into their property. Our licensed rehabbers would need seasonal access every other day, in order to clean cages and change food and water. During maintenance, our rehabbers would only be there for 15 minutes or so, and on days when we add or release animals we would need approximately 2 hours. The spring juvenile season would be from approximately June–July, and the fall one from September–October.

Typically, eastern gray squirrels would be the inhabitants of the cages, and the occasional opossum. We may eventually need the caging for other species as well. The healthy animals would pose no threat to a human within the vicinity, and all cages would be securely locked and camouflaged in order to keep away any unwanted attention.



Before working together or housing animals on your property, UUWR will confirm there are no city ordinances or zoning restrictions in your area, as far as housing these animals on your property. As long as the caging is secure and only accessible by the licensed rehabbers, it is fully within NYC law. It is extremely unlikely your staff or neighbors would even know the squirrels were there.

Your support for UUWR would be a public gesture of goodwill to our local environment and community, and we would gladly promote your cooperation with us via our growing social media channels and public sponsorship online and in printed materials. We are open to any other partnerships as well, including helping your organization with educational programming and/or environmental research.

We can be flexible with these dimensions, and possibly build into odd shapes.

