

Name _____

You Might Be a Wildlife Rehabilitator

Have you ever seen a turtle, deer, or swan who was sick or hurt? Wildlife rehabilitators are people who rescue wild critters. Many of them work from home. These pros have special training and experience in handling, feeding, healing, and releasing wildlife.

To care for wildlife properly, rehabbers have to do some strange things. For example, raising an orphaned raccoon means warming him with a 40-watt bulb in a tin can. Wiping his bottom with a wet cotton ball reminds him to go to the bathroom. Feeding him requires

whirring dog food in a blender and scooping dead fish off the beach.

To get a better idea of the life of a wildlife rehabber, read on. In each statement, there is at least one plural noun. (A noun is a word for a person, animal, place, or thing: *doctor, mouse, school, chair*. A **plural noun** refers to more than one: doctors, mice, schools, chairs. Most—but not all—plural nouns end in the letter s.) Underline all the plural nouns you find. You should have 24 underlined words.

You might be a wildlife rehabilitator if...

- 3 You don't think it's weird to have dead animals in your freezer.
- 3 You get excited by a gift of old blankets and mealworms.
- 3 Your last patient had fangs.
- 3 The mailman brings fruit flies to your door.
- 3 Most of the bills you open have sea gulls attached to them.
- 3 Your shell collection has moving feet.
- 3 When neighbors give you something in a shoe box, it usually isn't shoes.
- 3 There are more than six heating pads in your linen closet.
- 3 People can't remember your name; they know you as "The Duck Lady" or "Frog Man."
- 3 Your bumper sticker reads, "Honk If You Love Geese."
- 3 There are baby otters in your bathtub.
- 3 Cashiers in the grocery store wonder why your tote bag makes chirping sounds.
- 3 Your alarm clock screeches, eats moles, and has wings.
- 3 Your roommates bite.
- 3 You plant flowers based not on how they'll look but how they'll taste.
- 3 Your dinner guests smell.
- 3 You knit sweaters for penguins.
- 3 Your best friend doesn't call the police when you say there's a loon in your house.
- 3 You love all critters—even if they're slimy, ugly, or loud—because you know each one is special.



This worksheet is adapted from *Wildlife Rescue* newsletter (Winter 2000), www.wildliferescue-pa.com. Want to see real rehabbers at work? Visit www.hsus.org/wildlife/cape_wildlife_center. Click "Watch the video." Interested in working with wildlife or pets someday? Check out Willow Sirch's book *Careers with Animals* at your library or at www.nahee.org.

Choose one of the funny (but true) statements about wildlife rehabilitators above. Illustrate it on the back.