

## Animals of the Wildlife Encounters Ecology Center & Farm School

Farm / Pet / Wildlife	Species / Breed	#	Home Location	USDA / USFWS Reg	State Reg	Public Contact
F	Mini Donkeys	2	Barrington	x	x	
F	Nubian Goat	1	Barrington	x	x	
F	Mini-Pig	2	Rochester	x	x	
F	Rabbit	4	Rochester	x	x	
F	Rats	#	Barrington	x		
P	Chinchilla	7	Rochester	x		
P	Hedgehog	7	Rochester	x		
P	Ferret	1	Rochester	x		
P	Sugar Glider	1	Rochester	x		
W	3-Banded Armadillo	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Striped Skink	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Fennec Fox	2	Rochester	x	x	
W	Arctic Fox	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Gray Fox	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Red Fox	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Bennett's Wallaby	2	Rochester	x	x	
W	Patagonian Cavy	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Brush-tailed Bettong	1	Rochester	x	x	

W	Brazilian Porcupine	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	North American Porcupine	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	African Crested Porcupine	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Coatimundi	2	Rochester	x	x	
W	African Serval Cat	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Prairie Dogs	4	Rochester	x	x	
W	Laughing Kookaburra	1	Rochester		x	
W	Black Vulture	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	Turkey Vulture	1	Rochester	x	x	
W	American Alligator	8	Rochester		x	
P	Green Iguana	2	Rochester			
P	Bosc Monitor	1	Rochester			
P	Dumerils Monitor	1	Rochester			
P	Tegu Lizard	2	Rochester			
P	Chameleon	1	Rochester			
P	Blue-Tongued Skink	1	Rochester			
P	Bearded Dragon	2	Rochester			
P	Burmese Python	3	Rochester			

P	Reticulated Python	2	Rochester			
P	Red-tailed Boa Constrictor	4	Rochester			
P	Jungle Carpet Python	3	Rochester			
P	Australian Woma	1	Rochester			
P	Royal Python	2	Rochester			
P	Kingsnake	2	Rochester			
P	Cornsnake	3	Rochester			
P	Hognose Snake	2	Rochester			
W	Eastern Box Turtle	1	Rochester		x	
P	Box Turtles	1	Rochester			
P	Tortoises	6	Rochester			
P	Common Snapping Turtle	2	Rochester			
P	Alligator Snapping Turtle	2	Rochester			
P	Red Eared Slider	1	Rochester			
P	Moluccan Cockatoo	1	Rochester			
P	Umbrella Cockatoo	1	Rochester			
P	Blue & Gold	1	Rochester			

	Macaw					
P	Greenwing Macaw	2		Rochester		
P	Scarlet Macaw	1		Rochester		
P	White's Tree Frog	1		Rochester		
P	Cane Toad	2		Rochester		
P	African Giant Bullfrog	1		Rochester		
P	Emperor Scorpion	1		Rochester		
P	Rose-haired Tarantula	2		Rochester		
P	Hissing Cockroaches	#		Rochester		

Barrington Planning Board & Community Members,

We provide the above table as a tool to help you understand the nature of our business, the beautiful animals in our care and the regulatory environment in which we operate as a professional organization.

The City of Rochester has been a wonderful and accommodating home that has embraced us, our animals and our operations for the last 15 years! However, the property and renovated barn structure that houses our USDA licensed and inspected wildlife sanctuary and ambassador animals, is a modest 0.46 acres in Rochester's (R2) Residential / Commercial Zone.

Due to the location and small size, it supports our Outreach Educational Services well - but does NOT provide an opportunity for our organization to serve the community or pursue our educational mission through on-site activities or agritourism.

A few years ago we undertook an effort to diligently assess the communities neighboring Rochester in all directions, looking for a more rural location in a community whose personality and community were more consistent with our mission, had reasonable vehicular access and might embrace our small organization and give it an opportunity to grow! We feel exceedingly fortunate to have met Mr. Cook, and have the opportunity to honor and preserve his family's remaining historic farm property on

Beauty Hill Road, return animals to the farm, manage and steward the environment responsibly while in the process modernizing it's operations to the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our goal is to find an appropriate balance between farm production activities (plant & animal food & fiber, etc.) and agritourism/public education activities! In doing so, we hope to be viewed as a responsible, considerate and appreciated neighbor that has acted to preserve green space and that has developed into a cherished and contributing member of the Barrington business community.

- Bringing animal back to the Farm!

It is our understanding that animals have been absent from the farm property for several decades - since the time when Calvin & Kay Swain were stewarding the farm and contributing to the community of Barrington in their own ways. Evidence of this is apparent in the buildings' conditions, massive intrusion of invasive plant species on particularly the road-facing acreage where this Site Plan is proposed, and in the back part of the property the evidence of unknown & unauthorized individuals accessing the farm property from the power lines or abutting properties, often leaving trash, alcohol containers, causing disturbances to local residents with excessive recreational vehicle use, etc.

We intend to "check" such undesirable activity, post the property and regulate activity in a way that controls disturbance to native wildlife, our animals and the neighborhood residents.

Once our already approved barn is reconstructed, we will have available 7 stalls that could accommodate a small number of animals that would work with us on managing the foliage, regenerating the field(s), producing agricultural outputs and educating the public.

We envision in 2020 the potential addition of:

- 1 mule
- 1 horse
- A few sheep
- A few large goats (1 already with us)
- 2 mini-donkeys (already with us)
- Small / pygmy goats
- 1 cow
- Possibly 2 alpaca
- Chickens, with a mobile coop.

We have also had interest expressed from neighbors to participate in a "cow share", in which case we would explore the feasibility of installing appropriate fencing and a mobile, 3-sided "run in" shelter for a couple of Highland Cattle or similar hardy meat breed that could graze in the more remote areas of the farm property.

- Should our Site Plan be approved...

The second story of the barn would be complimented by an accessible, ADA compliant Educational Greenhouse which would provide expanded opportunities to offer educational activities, gatherings, guest lecturer visits, school vacation or after school activities, ect.

We see an opportunity here additionally to support out Outreach division by being able to have a space to “host our own programs”. So instead of bringing a group of Ambassador Animals to the Barrington Rec or Elementary School, we could have one of our educational staff bring animal from the USDA licensed facility in Rochester, deliver a presentation and then return them to Rochester. This would be a very popular option for many of the activities we hope to offer!

We have spoken to our USDA Inspector, and due to the nature of the secure construction of the proposed Educational Greenhouse, it is possible that the USDA could inspect it and license it as an INDOOR ONLY USDA licensed facility. This would subject the property and any regulated animals that live there, to a minimum of two (2) unannounced USDA inspection annually. USDA inspects for among other things: health, safety, security, proper vet care, physical and psychological enrichment, thorough record keeping.

This is a regulatory license that, should this Site Plan be approved, we would intend to pursue through USDA. This would enable us to provide housing for small animals in the greenhouse for at least some period of time. For example, if we are running a summer camp for 10 kids and a part of camp activities is animal care and welfare - we may wish to house a hedgehog, chinchilla or other small animals in the greenhouse so as to not subject them to the stress (and us to the burden) of traveling them back & forth from Rochester every day!

- Do we need to ask for Relief from Barrington Regulations for this?

We do envision, again if all goes well over time, that we may wish to house for at least some time, some animals on the Barrington Property which prior to doing so we would be legally required to receive approval for from the Barrington ZBA and Planning Board.

For example, one of our customers is Wentworth Greenhouses in Somersworth. They have offered to consult with us to create beautiful, naturalistic living educational exhibits in the greenhouse. One example could be a fully enclosed space with a tree that would be able to house for some time one of our birds called a Laughing Kookaburra (a kingfisher). Or possible a running indoor pond with one of our small alligators in it.

We are familiar with the exemption and approval-of-relief process, and the concerns of town/community leaders, first responders, etc. We went through it all with the City of Rochester many years ago. Additionally, we have been hired many times by the New England Humane Academy and the Maine Animal Control department to provide police and fire first responders training on what to do if they are responding to a situation where there is a native or exotic wildlife situation presented to them. We understand and invite open discussion!

- What has been described, is the extent of the animal-related activity we envision possible as a result of the approval of the site plan before you. However, we would not be where we are today if we did not have “pie in the sky dreams”!



We have had a surprisingly strong call from members of the community and surrounding communities, asking us if we will be able to conduct wildlife rehabilitation activities at the farm – even if on a small scale for species such as native turtles, songbirds and small mammals.

We honestly feel that is we are going to be blessed with a 77 acre wildlife sanctuary / farm property, and with most other injured wildlife options at least a 1 hour drive from Barrington – there may be an argument that we almost have a moral and ethical obligation to do so. In fact, one of our education staff works one day per week in rehabilitation at the Center for Wildlife in York, ME, and one of our owners is a Surgical Nurse at VCA CAVES (Concord Area Veterinary Emergency & Specialty). There is some desire from our team to explore this, we would invite open discussion of this with the leaders of the Town of Barrington to explore if it is something they would wish of us.

Several years down the line, assuming the Wildlife Encounters Ecology Center & Farm School is successful, and has achieved its goal of becoming a valuable, profitable, contributing member of the Barrington community, we may assess the business case for consolidating our Rochester Outreach Facility into Barrington.

This would entail a significant undertaking as we would desire any new, secure facility for housing the regulated wildlife be located far from any property line, likely mid-parcel and be constructed with minimal environmental impact with a full security perimeter fenced in area of probably 2+ Acres. This would require a whole new site plan, massive investment and again a strong business case for doing so, which does not exist at this time.