

Instructions for the Fawn Rehab Facility Inspection Form

Part I: Outdoor Enclosure

This part has two sections: one for those applying to be primary rehabbers and one for those applying to be secondary rehabbers. Only use the appropriate section for the inspection, and skip over the other section.

Primary

1. Minimum pen size 10x20ft (LxW) and minimum fence height of 6ft- The applicant must have at least one pen that meets this minimum size and that is at least 6ft in height. They may have several pens for separating fawns of different age classes for release at different times of the year, but at least one pen must meet this size and height requirement. Please list the actual pen size of all outdoor pens they intend to use and maintain for fawn rehab. This pen should also have a “release” gate situated away from humans, houses, pets, etc so that released fawns are pointed in the best direction for release.
2. Location is suitable for releasing fawns on-site - The applicant must have a location for their outdoor facility that is suitable for releasing fawns on-site. The definition of “suitable” is mainly a judgment call on your part. Feel free to use some of the items on the applicant evaluation form to help you determine the suitability of the site for release. You may need to explain the difference between hard release and soft release if they are interested in being a primary rehabber. Please note that if the site is not suitable for release and the applicant is interested in or capable of being a primary fawn rehabber, they must have an acceptable location for hard release. You will also need to inspect the hard release site to determine if that location is suitable for releasing fawns. If the applicant does not own the property, make sure the applicant has contacted the property owner and obtained consent to temporarily hold and release fawns at that location. Include the property owner’s name and the physical location or address of the hard release site. We do have one rehabber that has the minimum requirements for a secondary rehabber at her house as well as the minimum requirements for a primary located about 10 miles down the road. She transfers all her fawns out to the primary site and releases them on-site. For this situation, you would complete this entire question as if they were finding a location for hard release; just make sure to include a note on the inspection form so we know the primary pen will be at the release site.
3. Isolated from pets, humans, livestock, etc (visually and audibly) - Inspect the entire facility (pens and surrounding property) to determine if the fawn pen is kept isolated from pets, humans, etc, both visually and audibly. The degree of isolation (especially audible isolation) does not have to be 100%, although the higher the degree of isolation the better. A reasonable amount of background noise is acceptable. The definition of “reasonable” is a judgment call on your part.
4. Visual barrier at least 4ft in height around inside of fence - The outdoor pen should be entirely surrounded by a visual barrier at least 4ft in height, with the barrier located on the interior of the fence. The typical type of visual barrier used is shade cloth. It should cover the entire interior of a woven or welded wire fence to prevent the legs of fawns from getting caught and potentially broken. Some other items that may be used for the visual barrier may include tarp, plastic, silt fencing, or cloth. However, the visual barrier must be whole and solid, regardless of the material, so materials like plastic

orange safety/construction fencing (with large holes) are unacceptable. Please note that wooden panel fences do not need a separate visual barrier on the interior of the fence because the wood panels act as the visual barrier (see panel spacing requirements in #8 below).

5. Fence/gate secured to prevent unwanted ingress – The outdoor pen should have an entrance gate that is kept locked or secured to prevent unwanted ingress. Unwanted ingress could include children, neighbors, dogs, wildlife (like coyotes, foxes, and raccoons), neighbors, pets, etc.
6. Fence is dog-proof – The outdoor pen must be dog-proof at the base of the fence to prevent canids from digging under and entering the fawn pen. This may be needed on welded/woven wire fences or wooden panel fences.
7. Fence made of woven/welded wire (max. 10in² mesh, min. 12.5 gauge) or wooden panels (max. spacing 3in) – The maximum inch mesh size for woven/welded wire and the maximum panel spacing for wooden fencing should prevent fawns from being able to get their heads caught in the fence, especially if the visual barrier around the interior of a woven/welded wire fence degrades or fails at any time. The 10in maximum mesh would allow for fences with mesh diameters of 3x3, 4x2, 5x2, or smaller (not 4x4 5x3, etc). The minimum gauge for fencing materials (approx. 2mm in diameter) should provide a sturdy fence that will easily withstand weather and some damage. Gauge requirements should eliminate chicken wire, barbed wire, and other less substantial wire fences. Chain link and hog wire are usually going to be the typical options for fencing. Chain link fences usually have 2 in mesh and are 9 or 11 gauge, or 2¼ in or 2⅜ in mesh and 11.5, 12, or 12.5 gauge.
8. Located on a well drained site – The outdoor pen should be located on an area so the pen can get adequate drainage during heavy rains or wet weather.
9. Natural or manmade shelter provided for shade – The outdoor pen should have some type of natural (i.e. trees or shrubs) or manmade (i.e. shed) shelter that can provide enough shade for all the fawns that will be held in the pen. Manmade shelters could include a lean-to type shed, barn stalls, or even a fully enclosed wooden building. The shelter parameters (i.e. construction materials, height, size, roofing, flooring, etc) are left to the applicant's discretion provided that the construction materials do not violate the general pen requirements (i.e. no barbed wire – see below) and the shelter is large enough, in height and size, for all fawns to be under the shelter at the same time in either a lying or standing position. The main purpose of the shelter, whether it's natural or manmade, is to ensure that fawns do not become overheated, especially on sunny or hot days. Natural shade/shelter is preferable.
10. Sharp objects absent from facility (inside pen, fence, walls, etc) – The outdoor pen should not have any sharp objects inside the pen, in the fencing or walls, or in the shed. Sharp objects may include pieces of metal, protruding nails, or barbed wire. This requirement is to prevent injuries to the fawns.
11. Covered grain feeder – The outdoor pen should include a grain feeder that is covered to prevent mildew accumulation and to deter rodents or other pests from gaining access to the grain. Acceptable feeders could include cattle or horse grain feeders, a covered trough, or a plastic container for feed that is placed underneath a shelter (preferably off the ground).
12. Water container and clean water supply – A water container and clean water supply should be provided at all times.

13. Grass or other natural ground cover in pen – The outdoor pen should have some type of ground cover to prevent the pen from becoming muddy. Hay, cedar shavings, gravel, concrete, or complete bare soil is unacceptable. Hay holds moisture and can become very moldy and unsanitary and is difficult to clean when compacted with urine and feces. Cedar or pine shavings have strong scents that may be disliked by fawns, and are also difficult to clean. Although gravel and concrete are easier to clean, they can cause hoof damage (cracking or filing) or leg injuries (inadequate traction when wet). Although sections of the pen may have some bare soil (see requirement #15 below), complete bare soil in the pen is not recommended because the ground will become very muddy and slippery with heavy rain. Outdoor pens should be as natural as possible and should be as similar to the habitat of the release location as possible (i.e. include rocks, trees, natural vegetation, stumps, brush, etc). The best ground cover is natural ground cover - grass or leaves.
14. Some natural/bare soil available – Fawns should have access to some natural soil (not potting or artificial soil) in the pen to provide them with nutrients and bacteria that may help with development of their digestive systems.
15. Brush pile or other natural hiding places provided – The outdoor pen should include a brush pile, natural debris, tall grass, or other natural hiding places to encourage their natural hiding behavior.

Secondary

1. Minimum pen size 10x10ft (LxW) – The applicant must have at least one pen that meets this minimum size. They may have several pens for separating fawns of different age classes for release at different times of the year, but at least one pen should meet this size requirement. Please list the actual pen size of all outdoor pens they intend to use and maintain for fawn rehab.
2. Location is suitable for temporarily holding fawns – The applicant must have a location for their outdoor facility that is suitable for holding fawns until such time as the fawns are ready to be transferred to a primary rehabber. The definition of “suitable” is mainly a judgment call on your part. Feel free to use some of the items on the applicant evaluation form to help you determine the suitability of the site for rehab.
3. Applicant has at least 1 primary rehabber nearby – The applicant should have at least one primary rehabber nearby so they can transfer fawns easily and minimize the transport distance as much as possible. Include the name(s) of the closest primary rehabber(s).

All other items under the “Secondary” section are the same as those listed under the “Primary” section. Please refer to those definitions/explanations for additional descriptions.

Part II: Triage/Quarantine Area

This part is for both primary and secondary rehabbers. This section must be filled out for either.

1. Minimum holding crate size 3x3x2ft (LxWxH) – The applicant must have at least one holding crate that is used for the initial examination and quarantine of newly admitted fawns. This minimum size should fit the parameters for any soft-sided, plastic, or metal dog crate that is large or extra large in size. This crate should hold 1-2 small fawns (those within their first 2 weeks of life). Metal dog crates are not recommended because

fawns can cause injury to their head or legs while in crate. However, metal crates can be used if the applicant has some type of blanket or cloth permanently hung inside the crate (especially the gate) to prevent injuries. This crate should have some type of towel, puppy training pad, or similar cloth, which can be easily cleaned or replaced, to absorb urine and feces and provide traction.

2. Minimum transport crate size 3x3x2ft (LxWxH) – The applicant must also have at least one holding crate that can be used for transporting fawns to their facility as well as for additional examination or quarantine. This crate should also contain the materials listed above for traction and absorption of urine and feces. Rubber can also be used, in addition to these materials, to add additional footing and traction for fawns while in transport. Metal crates are not recommended for the reason stated above.
3. Temperature/light regulated area available – The triage/quarantine area should be temperature and light regulated. The applicant should be able to provide warmer or cooler temperatures than ambient outdoor temperatures for younger, injured, or stressed fawns. Light should also be regulated, in a manner similar to that of the natural daylight cycle.
4. Isolated from pets, humans, livestock, etc (visually and audibly) – Similar to the outdoor pens, the triage/quarantine area must also be isolated from pets, humans, livestock, or other animals. Most likely, the triage/quarantine area will be a large holding crate inside a room in the applicant’s home or a small barn stall. As long as the room or stall is isolated from human activity (not located near heavily frequented areas like the kitchen, front door, play rooms, etc) and kept quiet, the fawns should be isolated well enough. Pets, and especially children/kids, should not be allowed to enter the area.
5. Visual barrier around entire area – Similar to the outdoor pens, the triage/quarantine area should have a visual barrier around the entire area. In most cases, room walls or barn stall walls act as the visual barrier.
6. Entrance to area is secured to prevent unwanted ingress – The entrance to the area should be kept locked or secured to prevent the entry of anyone other than designated caregivers.
7. Area has a roof/cover and is dog-proof – The triage/quarantine area must have a roof or cover of some kind and must be dog-proof. In most cases, the ceiling and walls of a room or barn stall will satisfy this requirement.
8. Area can be easily cleaned and disinfected – The triage/quarantine area must be easily cleaned and disinfected to maintain humane and sanitary conditions.
9. Water container and clean water supply available – A water container and clean water supply should be provided at all times.