



Wildlife Animal Rehabilitation Facility Licensure

Updated 2/24/2026

Effective March 4, 2026, ORC [4729.531](#) allows a wild animal rehabilitation facility (WARF) to obtain from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy a limited terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) license solely for purchasing, possessing, and administering drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs for inducing anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness.

A WARF is a facility that holds a permit issued by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Chief of the Division of Wildlife for rehabilitation purposes in accordance with Ohio law governing scientific, educational, or rehabilitation collection permits.

While the law does not allow the Board to begin licensing until March 4, 2026, current WARFs are encouraged to begin applying to the Board **starting February 26, 2026**. Please be advised that the Board cannot issue a limited TDDD license to a WARF until it has at least one agent or employee who is a certified euthanasia technician. Approved euthanasia certification courses can be accessed here: <https://ovmlb.ohio.gov/maintaining-your-license/continuing-education>.

To assist WARFs in obtaining licensure and compliance with Ohio law and rules, the Board developed this guidance document. If you need additional information, the most expedient way to have your questions answered will be to e-mail the Board office by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1) How do I apply for a license with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy?

All WARFs that seek to purchase, possess, and administer drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs must hold a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) license. The license type for WARFs is “Terminal - Facility - LIMITED Category 3.”

To apply for a license, please see the following steps:

Step 1: Register for an eLicense Ohio account. For more information on registering for an account, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/eLicenseRegister. Please refer specifically to Parts A & B of the [guidance document](#).

Step 2: Once registered with eLicense Ohio, the WARF will have to apply for the following license type: “Terminal - Facility - LIMITED Category 3.” To start your application, click “Apply for a new license” on your eLicense dashboard. The cost of this license is \$460.00 for a two-year license.

Step 3: Answer the application questions. When asked about the type of business that represents the majority of the applicant’s business model, please select any of the options listed, as “WARF” is not yet an option. For the question asking for a description of the applicant’s business practice, please write “Wild Animal Rehabilitation Facility.”

Step 4: As part of the eLicense Ohio application, a WARF will have to submit the following documents:

- 1) **Applicant Attestation:** An attestation form signed by an individual who may sign on behalf of the business. The form can be found at www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/AppAttest.
- 2) **Drug List:** A list of the dangerous drugs to be administered to animals, commonly referred to as a drug list, that is signed by the WARF’s responsible person. The drug list must include the brand/generic name of the drug, the strength of each drug, and the dosage form. A sample drug list may be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/druglist.

IMPORTANT: A WARF is only permitted to possess drugs for euthanizing animals and pre-euthanizing drugs for inducing anesthesia, sedation, or unconsciousness (see Q3 for more information).

- 3) **Personnel List:** A list of personnel who are authorized to administer euthanasia and pre-euthanizing drugs to animals. At least one of the WARF's agents or employees must be listed as a certified euthanasia technician (CET) on the personnel list for the Board to issue a license. A sample personnel list can be found here:

www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/personnel.

IMPORTANT: Under the type/certification level on the personnel list, you must notate CET for those holding a valid euthanasia technician certification. Approved euthanasia certification courses can be accessed here: <https://ovmlb.ohio.gov/maintaining-your-license/continuing-education>.

- 4) **Responsible Person Attestation:** An attestation form signed by the WARF's responsible person (RP). The form can be found at www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/RPAttest. See Q2 for information on who can serve as the RP.
- 5) **Proof of ODNR Permit:** Please provide documentation that the WARF holds a valid permit from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Please attach your permit to the section on the eLicense Ohio application which asks for "Standing Orders/Protocol."

Q2) What are the qualifications to be the responsible person for a WARF?

Each TDDD is required to have a responsible person (RP). The RP on the license is responsible for ensuring compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and rules governing the distribution of dangerous drugs. For a WARF, **any** of the following may serve as the RP:

- Executive Director of the WARF
- Ohio Certified Euthanasia Technician
- Ohio Licensed Veterinarian

REMINDER: The RP must be physically present at the location for a sufficient amount of time to provide supervision and control of dangerous drugs on-site.

Q3) What are the drugs authorized by the Board for possession by WARFs?

Approved for Euthanasia	Combination drugs that contain pentobarbital and at least one noncontrolled substance active ingredient, in a manufactured dosage form, whose only indication is for euthanizing animals.
Approved for Pre-Euthanasia	Ketamine, tiletamine and zolazepam, and xylazine.

Q4) What are some compliance resources available to assist WARFs?

Inspection Guide: The animal shelter inspection guide is applicable to all WARFs operating under a limited license. This guide aligns with internal guidance used by Board inspectors and allows licensees to conduct self-inspections to maintain compliance. The guide also includes links to the rules, important definitions, and reminders of when a licensee is required to submit notification or additional information to the Board. The inspection guide can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/ASinspect.

Local Inspector: Once a TDDD is issued, the WARF will be assigned a Board inspector. Licensees are encouraged to reach out to their assigned inspector to address any questions or concerns. If you do not have that contact information, please call the Board office (614-466-4143) and ask to speak with the Compliance and Enforcement Department.

Contact the Board Office: Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy by email (contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov), website (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact), or phone (614-466-4143). We have a pharmacist on duty Monday-Friday during normal business hours to assist you with any questions or concerns.