



## Think Wild Release Attendee Protocols



Thank you for supporting Think Wild by attending a wildlife release. We are excited to share this rare opportunity to see a wild animal get a second chance at life.

The purpose of this document is to ensure that each wildlife release is fun and educational while mitigating stress and ensuring the best outcome possible for the wild patient. To that end, please be sure that everyone in your party reads this document prior to attending a wildlife release with Think Wild. Think Wild reserves the right to excuse any participant from a wildlife release event at any time for not adhering to these guidelines. Please share any questions or concerns with [sadie@thinkwildco.org](mailto:sadie@thinkwildco.org) prior to the release.

### **What to Expect**

A Think Wild staff member or experienced volunteer will meet you at Think Wild or the release site depending on your preference. Make sure you are wearing appropriate shoes and clothing depending on the weather and release site.

If meeting at Think Wild, plan to arrive at least 5 minutes early to ensure that there is enough time for both a tour and the wildlife catch-up. A Think Wild staff member or volunteer will lead you on a 20-30 minute tour that may include viewing the wild patient



being caught up for the release. After the tour, each party will drive separately to the release site.

If meeting at the release site, plan to arrive at least 5 minutes early. To mitigate stress for the patient, Think Wild can only wait for latecomers up to 5 minutes after the scheduled release time.

A typical release takes about 15-20 minutes and includes a background of the patient to be released, Q&A, release site preparation and release. In the case that a release will take longer (for example, if an animal needs to be fitted with a tracking device), Think Wild will let you know the approximate time. In some cases, a member of your party may be allowed to open the crate for the release.

### **Guidelines**

- No talking whenever the animal is outside of a vehicle. If talking is absolutely necessary, please whisper.
- Keep at least 15 feet from the animal at all times in locations specified by Think Wild staff or representative(s).
- Do not approach or touch the animal's transport container unless explicitly directed to do so by Think Wild staff or representative(s).
- Photos and video during the release are welcome, we just ask that your flash and/or shutter are turned off and that you maintain at least 15 feet from the animal. Please no live streaming.
- Additional guests (beyond those specified upon registration) are prohibited unless approved by Think Wild staff at least 24 hours prior to the event.
- Stay in close proximity to the planned release site during the event so as to not draw attention to the release or disturb the surrounding habitat.
- **Do not disclose specific release locations on any public platform in the interest of both human and animal safety.**

Thank you in advance for your compliance, and we look forward to sharing these special events with you!