



September 21, 2016

Attorney Piermario Bertolotto
Rizzo & Diersen
421 Broad Street
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
pier@rizzolaw.com

Subject: Letter of Support

Dear Attorney Bertolotto:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, I am writing to express support for Fellow Mortals, Inc. With a mission to provide ethical, compassionate and professional care to wildlife in need of care, Fellow Mortals plays an invaluable role in the wildlife rehabilitation community and for citizens of the state who utilize the services they provide to injured and orphaned wildlife.

The owner/operators of Fellow Mortals, Inc., Steven Blane and Yvone Wallace-Blane, have been licensed as wildlife rehabilitators with the State of Wisconsin since 1988. Due to their long tenure as licensees, the Department has utmost confidence in their knowledge, abilities, and skills in wildlife rehabilitation. This is evidenced by Yvonne's appointment as the chair of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Council in 2013 by Secretary Stepp.

Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 19, Subchapter II – Wildlife Rehabilitation establishes required facility standards for properties used for wildlife rehabilitation. Specifically, facilities used for wildlife rehabilitation must be separated from human living quarters and activities per Wis. Admin. Code NR § 19.77(1)(b). Wildlife enclosures must have visual barriers to restrict wildlife's view of humans, domestic animals and other species being rehabilitated to reduce inappropriate imprinting, socialization, habituation or stress per Wis. Admin. Code NR § 19.77 (2)(f). Further, facilities must provide adequate shade...to protect wildlife from inclement weather and direct sun per Wis. Admin. Code NR § 19.77(3)(d). All of these standards can be met with natural vegetation, which is often the case and is preferable as it provides a more familiar and natural setting for the wildlife that are being cared for.

Fellow Mortals strives to achieve the highest standards of care for admitted wildlife and leads by positive example. The Department is appreciative of the work that Fellow Mortals does in this important field.

Sincerely,

Sanjay B. Olson, PE
Fish, Wildlife & Parks Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Cc: Yvonne Wallace Blane, Fellow Mortals, W4632 Palmer Road, Lake Geneva, WI 53147
Sanjay Olson, Division Administrator, WDNR