

# NORFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2022

## **Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Graduates First Class of Female Justice-Involved Individuals from Program with New England Wildlife**

WEYMOUTH, MA – Sheriff Patrick McDermott announced today that the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and Suffolk County Sheriff's Office recently graduated three female justice-involved individuals from an animal care job-training pilot program at the New England Wildlife Center.

"This has long been one of our most successful job-training programs, and I am glad that we have been able to work with the Sheriff Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office to make it available to our female justice-involved individuals," said Sheriff McDermott. "This program opens up opportunities for these women by providing education, training, and skills that prepare them for careers in veterinary care."

The program is made available to specially-selected participants who travel to the center over the course of six weeks. This community program works directly with New England Wildlife Center's veterinary team to teach participants how to care for wild animals who are brought to the center, including feeding, administering medicine, and gathering vitals. After the successful completion of the program, the participants are awarded a veterinary technician certification.

The Norfolk County Sheriff's Office has collaborated with the New England Wildlife Center since 2014 to put on programs for justice-involved individuals. This is the first year that the program has been made available to female participants, in coordination with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.

New England Wildlife Center (NEWC) is a non-profit care-based science education organization. They provide critical veterinary treatment to sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in need now, and help people of all ages learn how to preserve nature for future generations.

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