



Guidelines for Photographers

We look forward to working with you in the photo sessions and helping you to get the pictures that you want. However, since your subjects are wild raptors (albeit ones that are reasonably comfortable around people), we would like to establish a few guidelines to help us all have a better and more productive photo shoot. Thanks!

1. Photographers should remain a minimum of six feet from the birds.
2. The birds will wear small leather anklets and jesses, with a leash attached to the handler for safety. Although the bird may remain on the handler's gloved fist during the photo shoot, on a case by case basis the handler may be willing to try to position a bird on a branch or stump set on location, if desired by the photographer(s).
3. If in the judgment of the handler a bird shows stress, it will be returned to its transport container. Another bird (probably of a different species) may be substituted.
4. Photo sessions will be for about 50 minutes each, and will be limited to a maximum of twelve photographers per session. This limit is to assure that everyone has the opportunity to obtain shots they want without getting in each other's way.
5. Photographers must sign up for specific sessions. Reservations will be accepted in the order received. The fee will be \$25.00 per photographer per session. Reservations and payment may be made online. Tickets for any remaining spaces will be available on the day of the photo shoot at the RCV table.
6. Four birds will be available to be photographed during each session. The two handlers in each session will each have a bird available. Each bird will be out for approximately half of the photo session. Photographers may move freely between the birds.
7. Flash equipment is permitted, as long as the flash is not used too close to the bird.
8. Requests from photographers for particular angles, etc, will be entertained by the handler. However, the safety and comfort of neither the bird nor the handler will be compromised. The handler's decision in all matters will be final.

9. A list of birds for each session will be posted online, and will be available on site at the RCV check-in desk. Birds may be substituted as necessary.

10. All photographers must check in at the RCV check-in table, and must present a valid ticket for the particular session at the photo site before commencing taking photos. Check-in at the RCV table and tickets shown at the photo site are mandatory, regardless of where or when the reservation was made.

11. Since this photo shoot is being held outdoors, inclement weather may force a change in location or even cancellation of the photo shoot.

12. Please feel free to access the RCV website for information on the species of raptor or specific birds seen at the photo sessions. You may also email or call RCV for answers to any questions you may have.

13. We are always most interested to view the results of your work, and see how our birds look in photos. We would much appreciate your giving us access to any photos you place online. We do not sell any photos ourselves, and would be glad to give you credit for your work.

Raptor Conservancy of Virginia

www.raptorsva.org

raptorsva@aol.com

703-578-1175