

ACT Wildlife

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Release



DECEMBER 2013 UPDATE

Hello Everyone,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY -
IMPORTANT INFORMATION
BELOW AND IMPORTANT
INFORMATION NEEDED**

We had two very successful training days with approximately 20 people each day. It was about 50:50 new members and experienced carers.

CARING: If you are ready to start caring please let me know asap.

We need to know :

- Those that have returned your forms: where you are up to and whether you need an aviary.
- Those that have **not** returned forms: What are your intentions so we can plan. Do you want to care or help in some other way? Or did you decide that ACT Wildlife is not for you? (And why not?) Please let me know either way.
- Experienced RSPCA carers who have **not** attended training: Do you want to care with ACT Wildlife. If so how are you placed for aviaries and equipment?
- Experienced RSPCA carers who have attended training and have not expressed your intentions please let me know.

AVIARIES There are four aviaries that we have to pick up. These would be 'on loan' to you for caring and will remain the property of ACT Wildlife.

Our current supply of aviaries is limited. If you are able to source an

Our phone number is:

0432 300 033

aviary through your contacts, friends or colleagues, please do. The wider we can advertise our need for aviaries the better.

At the moment we are full up with animals so need more carers to step up.

Remember that you need to be a member of ACT Wildlife to be a carer.

DATABASE

CARERS are asked to enter the animals they receive into the database. Animals should be entered as soon as you receive them so species coordinators can easily see who has what animals so they can be matched when more come in. If you would rather not enter them yourself there are people who can do it for you.

The database contains a lot of information including Word document files of an Animal Record Form and activity sheets for those working for ACT Wildlife away from home (for insurance purposes).

If you need access to the database please call Marg and it can be arranged. The data base is online and can be accessed and edited from anywhere with internet access, including your mobile phones!

PHONE ROSTER

As you can see we now have a phone number!

We were donated a Samsung Galaxy 3 phone by Telstra and I have been getting used to it. Calls are starting to come in but we have not advertised it anywhere yet except the website.

Those of you who have volunteered to take the phone on roster will be contacted soon and we will organise a phone training evening.

If you would like to help and have not mentioned it please jump in and let me know.

We are starting small and working up as we increase our carer numbers and facilities.

RSPCA

We are working with RSPCA in a cooperative way: RSPCA vets will provide us vet services and also give us animals received at the RSPCA wildlife hospital when they need care.

PROCEDURES

Overleaf is some procedural information. This is for the time being as we are still working this out as we progress.

LOST AND FOUND (ALREADY!)

Someone left a black/navy cardigan at the Athlton Drive depot training. Give me a call if it is yours.....

We are beginning a series of carer profiles. See the last page.

Have a great holiday season,

Marg

Sponsors:



Some Committee Contacts:

Marg Peachey 6231 3210 or 0450 961 530

Megan Wyllie 6255 7363 or 0413 935 496

Martin Lind 6288 7177 or 0447 870 448

Judy Tett 6231 4436 or 0417 513 222

Heather Peachey 0407 494 680

www.actwildlife.net



ACT Wildlife

1. Receiving animals from members of the public via the ACT Wildlife Phone

Everyone who is caring for animals and who is equipped for animal first aid will be expected to receive animals. You will be contacted through the person on the phone roster

Animals can be distributed to another carer as soon as possible or kept if you have the same species in care.

This is a service to the public so they can take animals to a carer nearest to where they found the animal.

Only more experienced carers will be asked to receive animals at first and we will work new people up to it.

2. Receiving animals from RSPCA

Carers will be contacted by Marg, or a person delegated to be the contact with RSPCA.

You will be asked to pick up the animal from RSPCA, unless it can be delivered to you.

RSPCA will give you a small amount of food to get you going with that particular animal, and perhaps medication if appropriate.

AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3 ...

3. Taking your animal to the RSPCA vet

Any animal in your care can be taken to the RSPCA Wildlife clinic vet. You are asked to call first to check the availability of a vet. Of course, if it is urgent let them know and I am sure you would be able to go straight there. The number to call is 6287 8122.

4. Mentor carers

New carers will have an experienced carer to call upon for advice.

We encourage **NETWORKING**. It is the way to learn from other people's experiences. Just remember that there is never a dumb question. Probably others are also wanting answers to the same question.

5. Phone roster

At the moment the phone number is not widely distributed and consequently it is fairly quiet. This gives us an opportunity to get used to the phone and the procedures surrounding it.

On roster you will be expected to have the phone turned on 24 hours a day. In reality it should be quiet from late evening to early morning. We will play it by ear as to the length of each roster duty.

The Animal Emergency Clinic in Fyshwick may call up to 9.30 at night for a pick-up. If you have the phone it would be great if you could assess the situation and a) arrange pick up of the animal or b) give advice.

For the animal's benefit we should strive to:

- keep similar species together for social reasons, and for young animals to recognise and learn behaviours from others of the same species
- this also benefits the carer as you are only preparing one sort of food and providing conditions for only one species at a time.

- TRAINING -

We are hoping to run some training in January and February.

An **ORIENTATION** session will be held in the morning, followed by **WILDLIFE FIRST AID** in the afternoon. This will include 'What should I do when I receive a bird, a reptile, or a mammal.'

These will be two separate training sessions on the same day.

It is mandatory for all carers to attend **BASIC BIRD CARE**. The next course is in February. You will

be shown handling and restraint, basic anatomy, assessment, and husbandry. Caring for baby birds is quite different to adult bird care.

Please email Judy Tett, Training Co-ordinator, before 15th January, if you would like to attend any or all of these workshops.

If there are insufficient numbers the workshop will be cancelled.

Venue, and times: TBA

TRAINING CALENDAR

Call Judy on 0417 513 222 to book

Orientation - Sunday 19 January

Wildlife 1st Aid - Sunday 19 January

Basic Bird Care - Saturday 1 February

PROFILE



Name: Judy Tett

Carer for: 5 years

Status: Retired

Interests: Golf, travel, wildlife, bushwalking, reading, nature

Cares for: Birds, especially black and whites

Suburb: Kambah

Role in ACT Wildlife: Committee member, carer, training co-ordinator, mentor carer

As at 31st December

Species

proportions

Birds 75%

Microbats 9%

Flying Foxes 9%

Possums 3%

Turtles 3%

Lizards 0%

Caring for Currawongs

by Judy Tett



SECOND CHANCE

The currawong is not a suburban favourite but having cared and released many I have found a new respect for these lovely and intelligent birds.

Last month I raised and released 4 currawongs from fledgling to release. Teaching these omnivorous eaters to feed themselves on a variety of insects, meat, fruit and berries was a demanding task. As babies they were fed hourly an insectivore mix in a syringe and then as juveniles added mince, fruit and berries and fed with tweezers.

Most challenging was to teach them that food doesn't come from a syringe or tweezers or me. Persistently food was placed around aviary walls, on branches and the ground to start pecking practice. Most food drops to ground which ends up feeding natural ground insects and starts them ground pecking.

Once no hand feeding is required, they are ready for release. Such delight to open the door and watch one by one as they experience their first flight to freedom. At the same time I wonder will they survive on their own but over the next few days they return for a supplementary feed and eventually don't come back.

As I walk around I hear a currawong call and wonder if it's one I proudly gave a second chance.

ACT WILDLIFE STATS

TOTAL INTAKE

61

RELEASED

22

IN CARE

27