

ACT Code of Practice for the Welfare of Native Wildlife - Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

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LIST OF MANDATORY STANDARDS

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INTRODUCTION

This Code of Practice for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has been prepared by the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Its purpose is to provide information and describe minimum standards of care to achieve acceptable animal welfare outcomes for orphaned, sick and injured native animals being held for rehabilitation and for release to the wild as well as outlining responsibilities of licensed organisations and licensed persons involved in their care.

Sections 109(3)(a) and (b) of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* provide that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee has the functions of advising the Minister and participating in the development of approved codes of practice and mandatory codes of practice. Section 22 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* authorises the Minister to approve a code of practice related to animal welfare and section 23 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* authorises the Minister to approve a code of practice that is mandatory in whole or in part.

This Code is a mandatory code of practice approved under section 23. Sections 24A and 24B of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* provide that it is an offence to fail to comply with a mandatory code of practice. Compliance with this Code is compulsory for carers engaged in caring for and rehabilitating native wildlife. Penalties for failing to comply with this Code range from an infringement notice penalty of \$350 or a court imposed penalty of up to 100 units for an individual to a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units for a corporation convicted of a breach of the Code.¹

Mandatory and non-mandatory sections of this Code

This Code comprises a set of mandatory standards that must be met by carers, together with supporting information to assist carers in meeting the mandatory standards.

The mandatory standards are numbered and are contained in boxes under the headings 'Mandatory standards for achieving objectives'. Information provided to assist carers in meeting the mandatory standards can be found in the Introduction section and throughout the document, particularly under the headings 'Key Information' and 'Additional Information'.

General considerations

An animal's welfare can be thought of as the way its health, safety and well-being are affected by its physical and social environment. Since humans can alter or control an animal's environment, animal welfare includes the concept that people have duties and responsibilities towards animals. The greater the level of interference with, or control of an animal's environment, the greater the responsibility on the part of the responsible person.

Animal welfare considerations are becoming increasingly recognised as of primary importance in the keeping of animals. This Code is based on established experience and current scientific knowledge. Practices once considered acceptable are now being reassessed and modified according to new knowledge and changing attitudes.

The *Animal Welfare Act 1992* defines a range of actions that are considered cruel or otherwise harmful to the health and welfare of animals. In addition to the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and the *Animal Diseases Act 2005* contain provisions relevant to the keeping of native animals. The *Nature Conservation Act 2014*

¹ In 2014 the value of a penalty unit was \$150 for an individual and \$750 for a corporation.

provides for the protection and conservation of native animals including for the taking and care of native animals that are orphaned, sick or injured.

This Code has been drafted to supplement the above legislation.

The *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* adopt different definitions of 'animal'. The *Animal Welfare Act 1992* defines an animal as a live vertebrate animal including fish.² The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* defines an animal to exclude fish but to include parts and products of dead animals. Because this Code is made under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, it is that Act's definition that applies. Further, this Code deals only with a subset of animals, namely native animals in the process of rescue, rehabilitation and release.

This Code applies to a wide range of species and classes of native animal. In some cases, care of a species or class of species (eg birds, reptiles or amphibians), will be covered under companion animal codes (eg a code for the keeping of caged birds, or a code for the keeping of reptiles). In other cases, particular aspects of care might be covered by other codes, such as the code for sale of animals, or the code for the use of animals on film sets. Thus rehabilitators of native animals must abide not only by the standards set out in this Code of Practice and relevant legislation (as mentioned above) but also, where applicable, by the following codes of practice under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*:

- Code of Practice for the Welfare of Reptiles in Captivity
- Code of Practice for the Welfare of Amphibians in Captivity;
- Code of Practice for the Humane Killing of Kangaroos in the ACT;
- Code of Practice for the Welfare of Captive Birds; and
- Any other relevant codes of practice.

The mandatory minimum standards in this Code apply to carers during the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured, sick or orphaned native animals in the ACT and to carer organisations more generally. These standards set out acceptable welfare standards that are practical and achievable.

It is not intended that ordinary members of the public rescuing wildlife or transporting rescued wildlife to a veterinarian or carer should be penalised for breaches of this Code. Members of the public who rescue and transport injured wildlife will generally be acting in emergency situations, will often be unaware that a code exists, and should not be liable to prosecution for attempting to help an injured animal. Mandatory standards **S1** and **S2** have been drafted accordingly, although **S1.3** (techniques not to be used in rescuing native animals) applies to licensed wildlife carers and members of the public alike.

Licensing requirements

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, a licence is required from the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to keep most species of native animals, including for rehabilitation purposes. Some animals are exempt from this requirement, and can be legally kept without a licence, providing they are not taken from the wild. Even animals that are not exempt can be kept by unlicensed persons for up to 48 hours for the purposes of delivering the animal to a carer or veterinarian. A person is in breach of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* if he or she holds a (not exempt) native animal for more than 48 hours, or holds an animal without the intention of delivering it to a carer or veterinarian.

² The *Animal Welfare Act 1992* also includes crustaceans sold for human consumption and cephalopods but those are unlikely to be relevant in the context of this Code.

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, an individual may keep a native animal that is not on the exempt list, for the purpose of rehabilitating it for release to the wild, only if the person is either an individual licence holder or covered under the licence of an approved organisation.

Carers who are financial members of a licensed organisation are covered by that organisation's licence to keep native animals. A licensed organisation is expected to ensure that its members adhere to the conditions of the organisation's licence and to have the power to expel members who fail to adhere to the licence conditions, or who disobey the rules of the licensed organisation, or who breach the mandatory provisions of this Code.

In addition, animals that are listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* as either protected native species or as having special protection status have stringent licensing controls. These licences are only issued to qualified and experienced rehabilitators with appropriate facilities.

Specialised knowledge and experience with some species of native animals is particularly important. Such groups of wildlife include monotremes, dasyurids (ie native predatory mammals such as quolls), bats, raptors, and some reptile and amphibian species. It is appropriate that these animals be placed with specially qualified or experienced carers with appropriate facilities. It is essential that carers have a sound knowledge of the captive husbandry and rehabilitation practices for each species they care for.

It is the policy³ of the ACT Government that licences are not issued for the raising and/or rehabilitation of eastern grey kangaroos. Any rescued sick or injured adult eastern grey kangaroo that is unlikely to survive without minimal assistance should be euthanased in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Humane Killing of Kangaroos in the ACT, and these animals should be taken to a veterinarian or Conservation Officer for this purpose. If the animal has a good chance of survival it must be released within 48 hours. Some wildlife organisations in parts of NSW surrounding the ACT (eg Wildcare Queanbeyan) may hold licences allowing them to accept a number of eastern grey kangaroos from the ACT for rehabilitation and release.

The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* prohibits the importation of native animals into or exportation from the ACT except in accordance with a licence issued by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna. Other states and territories may also require reciprocal licences.

Some circumstances require that native animals are either returned to NSW or brought into the ACT. In order to facilitate this, a reciprocal Import/Export licence is required for each animal, issued by the relevant ACT and NSW licensing authorities.

Such circumstances may include where:

- facilities for care are unavailable in the ACT;
- release of an animal is to take place into a habitat that is no longer available in the ACT; or
- an animal has been rehabilitated in one jurisdiction but is to be released to the place it was found, which is in the other jurisdiction.

Interaction of the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and *Nature Conservation Act 2014* in relation to this Code

³ In 2014.

This Code applies independently of any provisions under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* and any requirements of a licence issued under that Act. The mandatory provisions of this Code apply to any organisation licensed under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* to care for a native animal, to persons operating under an organisation's licence, and to an individual person licensed to care for a native animal.

As noted above, the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* allows a non-exempt native animal to be held by an unlicensed person for up to 48 hours. However, licensed carers are required to comply with the mandatory provisions in this Code relating to rescue and transport of native animals, even though these actions will generally occur during the 48 hours when a licence issued under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* is not technically required.⁴

It should also be noted that any member of the public who takes custody of a native animal, even though they might keep it for less than 48 hours from the time of rescue, might breach the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* if they fail to take reasonable steps to alleviate the animal's pain. Normally this would mean taking the animal to a veterinarian, a licensed carer or a Conservation Officer (park ranger).

Both the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* prohibit the release of animals from captivity. The *Animal Welfare Act 1992* prohibits release of an animal without reasonable cause. The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* prohibits the release of native animals without a licence under that Act.

In certain circumstances (such as in the case of rare or threatened species), it is appropriate that the Conservator of Flora and Fauna be consulted about the best outcome for the animal. A rare or endangered animal, dead or alive, should be referred to the ACT Government department responsible for native wildlife.

Scope

This Code is limited in its application to native animals that under normal conditions would be living in the wild. While undergoing the process of rescue, rehabilitation and release, this Code sets standards to protect their welfare. The Code does not apply to exotic animals, including feral animals such as cats or foxes that may be found sick or injured; such animals would not be released to the wild. Nor does it apply to native animals held permanently in captivity, such as native animals bred in captivity.

Definitions

In this Code:

animal has the same meaning as in the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*.

carer means:

- (a) if a native animal undergoing recovery or rehabilitation is being cared for at the premises of an organisation holding a licence – that organisation; or
- (b) otherwise, a person who is undertaking the rescue, rehabilitation or release of a native animal and is covered by a licence.

⁴ It is assumed that licensed carers will always have the knowledge and expertise to meet the welfare standards set out in this Code, even on occasions when they do not require a licence under the *Nature Conservation Act*, such as during the 48 hours after a rescue when a licence is not required for a non-exempt animal.

ethanase means to kill humanely for the purpose of relieving an animal's suffering.

incompatible animals means individuals or species that cannot be housed together because:

- (a) one might injure or prey on the other; or
- (b) they might aggressively compete for food or territory; or
- (c) one might interfere unduly with the other's behaviour.

licence means a licence to take and keep animals for the purposes of rehabilitation and release granted under Part 11 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*.

1. RESCUE AND HANDLING

Overall welfare objective

- Appropriate care during rescue, rehabilitation and rearing

Objective during rescue

- Capture of animals that involves only methods that cause minimal stress and no further injury

Key information

All wild animals are unused to people and to being handled by humans. They are frightened, physiologically stressed, and disorientated by such handling. This situation is compounded if the animal is sick, injured or in pain. A wild animal is capable of inflicting injury to itself or its rescuer or carer when stressed and frightened. A person should not attempt to rescue a bat or flying fox unless the person has been vaccinated for Lyssavirus.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S1

S1.1 In rescuing a wild living native animal, a carer must:

- (a) assess and avoid hazards and risks to both the animal and rescuer during capture; and
- (b) attempt a rescue only where it is unlikely to cause further stress and injury to the animal; and
- (c) handle the animal gently and efficiently and as little as possible; and
- (d) minimise additional stressors such as onlookers, loud noise, exposure to other animals, and extremes or sudden changes of temperature, during both rescue and transportation.

S1.2 To avoid doubt, a person who:

- (a) is not a carer; and
 - (b) rescues a wild living native animal; and
 - (c) carries out the rescue other than in accordance with S1.1
- does not breach S1.1.

S1.3 In rescuing an animal carers and members of the public must not use the following techniques:

- (a) use of a projectile, other than a net-gun or tranquilliser dart by an appropriately trained and licensed person; or

- (b) use of unpadded snake tongs (for snake rescue); or
- (c) use of a leg-hold trap eg. snare or closing steel trap with padded or unpadded jaws.

S1.4 A carer who receives a rescued animal, must within 24 hours:

- (a) arrange for the assessment of the animal by a veterinarian or experienced wildlife carer to ensure accurate diagnosis and prompt treatment or euthanasia; or
- (b) if arranging such an assessment is not possible:
 - (i) seek expert advice (for example via telephone, email or text message); and
 - (ii) arrange for appropriate pain relief and treatment; and
 - (iii) if an animal is unlikely to survive or if its treatment would be likely to cause prolonged suffering, arrange for its prompt euthanasia.

Additional information

Members of the public frequently come across injured, sick or orphaned wildlife and many if not most will do their best to help the animal. It is not the intent of this Code to discourage such behaviour. Sections 45 and 46 of the *Nature Conservation Act* allow anyone to take ill, diseased or injured native animals, and keep them for 48 hours without a licence to allow their treatment or care. The effect of Standard 1.2 is that members of the public rescuing an animal are not obliged by law to abide by Standard 1.1, but they are nevertheless encouraged to do so.

People should not interfere with healthy nestling and fledgling birds, ie. baby birds starting to leave their nests, unless they have clearly been abandoned; whether a bird has been abandoned or not may require monitoring. Fledgling birds at high risk of attack from other animals may be protected by placing them in a nearby tree or by erecting temporary fencing.

In situations where an animal being rescued poses a significant risk of causing injury to itself the rescue should not be attempted without an adequate number of trained rescuers and appropriate equipment. Expert rescuers should be trained in the use of this equipment. The use of gloves would help prevent rescuer injury from bites and scratches and transfer of zoonotic disease, such as mange.

Similarly, if a rescue poses a risk to the rescuer it should not be pursued.

2. TRANSPORT

Overall welfare objective:

- Appropriate care during rescue, rehabilitation and rearing

Objective during transport:

- Transport of rescued animals in a manner that minimises additional stress and causes no further injury

Key information

Transportation is stressful for any wild animal. It should therefore be conducted in a manner that minimises duration, stress, discomfort and the likelihood of injury. Transportation should be comfortable and secure as appropriate to the species condition, size and age of the animal.

Standard S2 applies to transportation of animals once they have come into the care of a carer. This standard does not apply to the initial transportation of animals from the rescue site, where an emergency situation during rescue may not enable the standard to be achieved. However, where practical, the standard in S2 should be also used for transportation of the animal from the rescue site to a carer.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S2

S2.1 A carer transporting a rescued wild animal must ensure that transportation:

- (a) meets the particular needs of the species – for example for padding, non-slip substrate and perches; and
- (b) is appropriate to the size and age of the animal, for example pouches for joeys, nests or pseudo-nests for nestlings; and
- (c) takes into account the extent of any injury or disease; and
- (d) provides temperature regulation appropriate for the species and age of the animal; and
- (e) provides adequate ventilation; and
- (f) minimises light, noise and vibration; and
- (g) prevents contact with young children and pets; and
- (h) maintains good separation between containers of predator and prey species where animals of different species are being transported at the same time; and
- (i) is kept level and escape-proof; and
- (j) a container holding a flying-fox must have a clearly visible warning label that says 'Warning – live bat'.

S2.2 Standard 2.1 does not apply to the transport of a rescued animal immediately following its rescue from the rescue site to a carer.

Additional information

If sedation is required for transport, a veterinarian should assess the animal.

The effect of Standard 2.2 is that a carer who transports an animal to another carer immediately following its rescue is not obliged by law to abide by S2.1, as even expert rescuers may not have a vehicle that is supplied with appropriate equipment at the time an emergency arises. Nevertheless, anyone rescuing an animal should follow S2.1 if possible.

3. ASSESSMENT OF ANIMALS

Overall welfare objective

- Alleviation of the immediate suffering of the animal
- Appropriate care during rescue, rehabilitation and rearing

- Release of the animal to the wild in a healthy and fit condition that will maximise its chance of survival in the wild

Objectives during assessment

- Alleviation of any immediate suffering caused by the animal's condition as quickly as possible
- Minimisation of further stress to the animal from handling and examination
- Return of only viable animals to the wild
- No incorrect euthanasia of viable animals

Key information

All three overall objectives apply at this stage of the process. The assessment will determine whether immediate pain relief or euthanasia is required to relieve suffering. It will guide the carer's decisions regarding care during the rehabilitation process and, consequently, it will be critical to whether the animal is successfully returned to the wild.

Individual assessments may require consultation with people experienced in native animal care to ensure the most appropriate action is taken. Such people may be other carers, an appropriate Government officer or veterinarians experienced with the treatment of wildlife.

Under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, it is generally an offence for a person who is not a veterinary surgeon to carry out a medical or surgical procedure on an animal.

For a decision tree refer to Appendix 1.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S3

S3.1 After a rescued animal is delivered to a carer, the carer must ensure that the following information is obtained prior to a decision about the animal's future:

- species (including conservation status eg threatened species);
- nature of injury including temporary or permanent impairment of:
 - mobility (loss of limbs or functions of limbs including tails and wings);
 - vital senses (hearing, sight, smells);
 - nervous system function;
 - brain function;
- body condition and hydration state;
- acute or chronic ill-health including infectious disease or declared exotic or endemic disease;
- weight, and if possible, age and sex;
- rehabilitation needs including medications;
- prospects for recovery (viability) for successful release to the wild; and
- altered patterns of behaviour as a result of imprinting by other animals or humans.

S3.2 Immediately following an animal coming into care, the carer must make an assessment that:

- the animal is considered to be suitable for rehabilitation and for release to the wild; or
- the animal needs further assessment before a determination can be made; or
- the animal is a species whose conservation status requires a different outcome, as advised by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna; or

(d) the only humane outcome for the animal is euthanasia.

S3.3 The carer must keep adequate records of assessment which, in addition to the above information, must include:

- (a) the time, date and detailed location where the animal was found (eg house number as well as street name); and
- (b) the name, address and telephone number of the person finding the animal.

S3.4 The carer must maintain ongoing records including a record of:

- (a) progress (mobility, flight, improvement in demeanour, weight gain or loss); and
- (b) the name of the carer responsible for rehabilitation; and
- (c) details of food intake and elimination; and
- (d) detailed instructions from veterinarians and experienced rehabilitators in relation to medication and care; and
- (e) the outcomes of rehabilitation (release, death, euthanasia, escape) and the date of the outcome and, where relevant, the place of release.

S3.5 The carer must assess progeny of animals brought in with a parent in the same way as the parent.

S3.6 Where it becomes evident that efforts to rehabilitate an animal for release to the wild are likely to fail or have failed the carer must adopt one of the following options in relation to the animal:

- (a) euthanasia; or
- (b) in exceptional circumstances, for example if the species is threatened, referral to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna.

Additional information

Examples of where further treatment is needed before the animal can be properly assessed include where:

- stress treatment and/or pain control are needed before the animal is calm and stable enough for assessment; or
- further investigation is needed to determine internal injuries or disease, which may in turn require consultation with another person, for example a veterinarian experienced in native animal care, or an experienced native animal carer.

Regular assessment of the animal during care is required to ensure that recovery without undue suffering continues, and that successful release to the wild remains the most likely outcome.

If an animal fails to adjust to the rehabilitation process, for example by showing signs of continual stress impeding physical recovery, it must be euthanased, as required by S3.2(d).

Euthanasia is the usual outcome where any of the following conditions apply (veterinary advice may be helpful in reaching a decision):

- the animal has injuries or disease of such a nature that death is imminent or it will not recover sufficiently to survive in the wild;
- the animal would not survive without radical surgery which would prevent its return to the wild;
- the animal is suffering from chronic, un-relievable pain;

- the animal is suffering from an untreatable and fatal disease, such as Beak and Feather disease in Psittacine species;
- the animal is suffering from an exotic disease, eg. Paramyxovirus;
- the animal would be subjected to prolonged, severe and un-relievable suffering prior to recovery;
- the animal is at such an early stage of development that it is unlikely to survive to maturity;
- the animal's advanced age renders it unable to survive in its natural habitat; or
- there is no suitable release location, including as a result of habitat destruction or overcrowding (which, for example, causes stress dermatitis in possums).

If the animal is a non-indigenous wild animal the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* prohibits its release in the ACT except in accordance with a licence.

4. EUTHANASIA

Overall welfare objective:

- Alleviation of the immediate suffering of the animal

Objective during euthanasia:

- Timely and humane death of sick, injured or orphaned animals assessed as not suitable for rehabilitation

Key information

Euthanasia refers to the intentional ending of a life to relieve pain or suffering. Where an ill or injured animal has no prospect of ever being free of severe pain, euthanasia is regarded as the only humane option.

Even if an animal can be healed of an injury or illness, if there is no prospect of it ultimately being returned to the wild, the most humane course of action is usually to euthanase it as soon as possible because wild animals can rarely live in captivity without ongoing emotional distress.

When accredited carers are required to perform euthanasia, a method appropriate for the species and size of the animal, based on veterinary advice and/or in accordance with other codes of practice, must be employed to minimise pain and suffering of the animal. When euthanasia is to be by barbiturate overdose, this must be carried out by or under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S4

S4.1 Persons conducting euthanasia of animals must ensure that:

- (a) the method used to kill an animal causes no pain or fear and, as far as possible, leaves the animal unaware that it is in danger; and
- (b) rapid loss of consciousness occurs immediately followed by death; and
- (c) a lack of heartbeat and corneal reflexes is confirmed prior to disposal of the body

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to ensure that death has occurred.

S4.2 No person may euthanase an animal by:

- (a) suffocation by drowning, strangulation or chest compression; or
- (b) freezing or burning; or
- (c) use of any poisonous substance which does not achieve painless and rapid unconsciousness for euthanasia purposes;
- (d) air embolism; or
- (e) exsanguination (bleeding out) or decapitation without prior stunning; or
- (f) electrocution or microwave irradiation; or
- (g) any other method that imposes or is likely to impose unreasonable pain, suffering or distress on the animal.

Additional information

The preferred method of euthanasia is by barbiturate overdose administered by a veterinarian. However the following methods can also be used in the field, or if a barbiturate dose is not practical (for example, if the animal is aggressive or not approachable or the barbiturate cannot be administered in a timely manner):

- shooting with a rifle for large animals;
- stunning followed by cervical dislocation followed by immediate destruction of the brain for small birds and mammals (less than 0.5kg);
- stunning followed by immediate destruction of the brain for reptiles and amphibians.

Administering poison to a native animal without reasonable excuse or laying poison for a native animal is prohibited under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*. Poisoning can occur through ingestion, absorption through the skin, injection, insertion, or inhalation.

5. CARE AND MANAGEMENT DURING REHABILITATION

Overall welfare objectives

- Appropriate care during rescue, rehabilitation and rearing
- Release of the animal to the wild in a healthy and fit condition that will maximise its chance of survival in the wild

Objectives during care and management:

- Appropriate accommodation for each animal in care
- Prevention of further injury
- Minimisation of stress
- Recovery of health and natural behaviours
- Conditions that prevent further illness
- Prevention of transfer of illness between animals or between people and animals
- Prevention of releasing carriers of disease into wild populations
- Optimum growth in young animals

- Release of young animals as soon as is practical and at about the same age they would leave their parents in the wild
- Prevention of humanisation or imprinting
- Health care and veterinary attention to each animal as needed

Key information

Appropriate accommodation, care and management are needed to minimise stress throughout the animal's captivity and during the release process. Ongoing, repeated or prolonged stress can result in reduced growth rates, retarded recovery, abnormal behaviour (for example self-mutilation and stereotypic behaviour) and increased mortalities. Potential stressors need to be identified and eliminated early to avoid any detrimental health impact on the animal. Other health threats, such as the introduction or spread of disease, also need to be controlled.

Contact with domestic animals or with people other than the carer must be avoided for multiple reasons: to minimise stress, to prevent the introduction of disease, and to avoid imprinting or humanisation.

Carer organisations and individuals should use available current scientifically based information and other animal welfare codes of practice to constantly improve and enhance care methods.

5.1 Housing

Objectives of housing

- Appropriate accommodation for each animal in care
- Prevention of further injury
- Minimisation of stress
- Recovery of health and natural behaviours

Key information

Overcrowding can be a major stressor. Each species has a density threshold at which stress will become a problem, reducing their ability to recover. There are recommended enclosure sizes in Appendix 2.

Additionally, co-housing with other species can cause stress as a result of unequal competition and other adverse responses. In particular, the sight, smell and noise of predator / prey species is very stressful to animals which are the predator's natural prey.

On the other hand, individuals of social species are likely to be stressed if not housed with others of their own species.

Carers may need to network to distribute animals across rehabilitation facilities so that no species is overcrowded, so that different species are not housed together, and so that social animals of the same species can be housed together.

The housing appropriate to any animal will vary as the animal moves through intensive care to recovery to pre-release. Section 5.1 (housing) should be read in conjunction with 5.2 (hygiene).

At all stages of recovery the housing should be exposed to the natural diurnal light cycle. Species that would normally be exposed to direct sunlight for a substantial proportion of the day (most species that are active during the day) must have access to direct sunlight in their housing. For species that would only rarely be exposed to direct sunlight (such as nocturnal species that hide during the day), the housing should still be exposed to a natural light cycle, preferably using natural (direct or indirect) light, but if this is impractical artificial light that includes UV should be used. Species that hide during the day must be provided with appropriate structures to hide within the housing. Sunlight promotes healing and recovery, and exposing the housing to a natural diurnal light cycle maintains the animals' acclimatisation to this cycle.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S5.1

S5.1.1 The carer must provide housing that:

- (a) reflects requirements appropriate for the stage of rehabilitation and species; and
- (b) is suitable for the species being cared for and for the level of rehabilitation being undertaken (intensive care, recovery or pre-release); and
- (c) gives suitable shelter from the elements in accordance with the stage the animal has reached in the recovery process; and
- (d) is the right size for rehabilitation and to maintain or gain fitness; and
- (e) maintains a natural day/night cycle, and provides access to direct sunlight for species that are active during the day; and
- (f) has cage furniture (perches, food receptacles, water supply, substrate, nesting boxes) that is suitable for the species and stage of rehabilitation and does not pose a danger to the animal; and
- (g) as far as possible, imitates the natural habitat for the species being rehabilitated.

S5.1.2 The carer must keep incompatible species separate during rehabilitation.

S5.1.3 Where more than one animal of the same species are in care, the carer must house the animals together (at an appropriate time of rehabilitation), unless the species is solitary in the wild or aggressively territorial.

S5.1.4 The carer must ensure that intensive care housing:

- (a) maintains a constant temperature (monitored with a thermometer and regulated with a thermostat) to optimise normal body functions for the species being cared for; and
- (b) provides enough space for some movement and to maintain a normal posture; and
- (c) provides appropriate cage furniture for the level of physical ability of the animal; and
- (d) is large enough to provide a hiding place and to keep food and water away from soiled areas; and
- (e) provides protection from auditory and visual stimuli, eg. by being in a quiet room with the cage opening covered with a towel; and
- (f) is adequately ventilated but not subject to draughts; and

- (g) is constructed to facilitate easy cleaning including replacement of substrate daily or more often if required.

S5.1.5 The carer must ensure that recovery housing:

- (a) provides enough space for free movement but allows for easy and quick capture; and
(b) is large enough to allow the animal to move to a warmer or cooler part of the enclosure; and
(c) provides hiding spaces and appropriate cover for species as they would experience in the wild; and
(d) where provided for birds:
(i) for perching birds, has different size perches that are high enough for the tails to be clear of the substrate; or
(ii) for waterbirds, has water deep enough for swimming and a dry area with soft substrate.

S5.1.6 The carer must ensure that pre-release housing:

- (a) allows expression of natural behaviours, including flying where relevant, in an enclosure large enough to maintain fitness; and
(b) allows the animal to fully adapt to natural climatic conditions, including current weather patterns; and
(c) provides for the needs of the species, where relevant, as follows:
(i) for perching birds, provides a variety of perches designed to suit the size of bird and habits of the species being housed (eg. limb-perching and ledge-perching birds); or
(ii) for waterbirds and seabirds, provides a pool of clean water deep enough for swimming and to take pressure off their legs, and a dry area covered with a soft substrate; or
(iii) for possums, provides nest boxes and branches at various heights with foliage cover; or
(iv) for macropods, allows open areas and shrubs for hiding, places for dust bathing and obstacles to jump over; or
(v) for wombats and echidnas, provides a deep, hard-packed substrate for digging; or
(vi) for flying foxes, provides an area large enough for flying with appropriate hanging framework.

5.2 Hygiene

Objectives of hygiene

- Conditions that prevent further illness
- Prevention of transfer of illness between animals or between people and animals

Key information

Good hygiene practices are central to the rehabilitation task. All carers should develop a routine that maintains a high standard of cleanliness, both to prevent the spread of disease and to provide comfortable living conditions for the animals under care. Further standards in relation to the quarantining of animals are provided in Standard 5.3 Quarantine.

Pest control should be carried out for all rehabilitation facilities.

Code of Practice for the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of Native Wildlife

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S5.2

S5.2.1 The carer must ensure that enclosures, cage furniture, bedding, food and water containers, transport containers and substrate are thoroughly cleaned with antiseptic solutions suitable for native animals and rinsed with water between each occupant and the next.

S5.2.2 The carer must keep housing free of pests and toxic materials.

S5.2.3 The carer must adopt the following good hygiene practices:

- (a) separate cloths are used for each cage to minimise the spread of infection; and
- (b) the order of cleaning is from the enclosure of the healthiest animal to the most ill animal; and
- (c) pouches and liners housing orphaned marsupials are changed as soon as possible after they become wet or soiled without causing undue stress to the orphan; and
- (d) basic hygiene measures, such as hand washing, are followed before and after handling each animal; and
- (e) feeding stations are kept clear of potential faecal contamination; and
- (f) food and water containers are cleaned daily; and
- (g) faeces, used litter and uneaten food are disposed of to prevent spread of disease.

S5.2.4 When an animal is in intensive care, the carer must ensure all substrates (towels, artificial grass, etc) are changed each time the cages are cleaned, and more often if necessary.

5.3 Quarantine

Objectives of quarantine:

- Prevention of transfer of illness between animals or between people and animals
- Prevention of releasing carriers of disease into wild populations

Key information

A number of exotic and endemic animal diseases are declared under the *Animal Diseases Act 2005*. If a person has reasonable grounds for believing that an animal is infected with a declared exotic or endemic disease, the person must advise the Chief Veterinary Officer in writing and separate the animal from any other animal that is not infected with the disease. The Chief Veterinary Officer may direct actions to be undertaken to control the spread of disease.

The Threat Abatement Plan for Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease requires that any parrot presenting with the disease be euthanased.

Carers should be generally aware of any transmissible diseases or parasites new animals might be carrying, even if they currently show no symptoms, and should make themselves aware of the incubation periods for these diseases. When in doubt, carers should seek expert advice. Isolation should be consistent with the longest incubation period for any likely

disease. Signs of disease include coughing, sneezing, abnormal breathing, discharges from eyes or nose and diarrhoea.

Additionally, there are a number of zoonotic diseases, ie diseases that can be passed from an animal to a carer or vice versa. Carers are required to be aware of these diseases and take particular caution during rescue and rehabilitation. Some of these diseases can cause serious illness and some are potentially fatal. Carers should follow medical advice on suitable strategies to prevent or minimise the chances of passing zoonotic diseases to or from animals in their care. All animals should be considered potential disease carriers throughout their period in care. If a carer is carrying a zoonotic disease that could be passed to an animal he/she must take precautions to limit the spread of that disease by using masks and wound coverings as necessary.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S5.3

S5.3.1 The carer must ensure that each newly arrived animal is visually assessed to be free of infectious disease before it is housed near other native fauna.

S5.3.2 The carer must ensure that:

- (a) any animal suspected of having an infectious disease is quarantined until examined by a veterinarian; and
- (b) animals with infectious diseases are kept separate from other animals throughout rehabilitation; and
- (c) animals showing signs of parasitic infection are kept separate until the parasites are removed.

S5.3.3 The carer must ensure that any parrots with obvious symptoms of Psittacine Beak and Feather Viral Disease are immediately euthanased on arrival and disposed of to prevent cage contamination.

S5.3.4 The carer must ensure that carcasses of animals that have been euthanased by barbiturate overdose or are suspected or known to have suffered from an infectious disease are incinerated or buried at a depth that will prevent scavengers from reaching them.

Additional information

Isolation from other animals, domestic animals and people other than the carer is especially important for stressed animals, which are more susceptible to infection.

Proper and rapid response to Psittacine Beak and Feather Viral Disease in cockatoos and other parrots is vital as the virus is almost indestructible and is easily passed on through contact and aerial contamination. Frogs found in fruit boxes in supermarkets must not be released because they are unlikely to be indigenous to the Canberra area. Frogs with Chytrid fungus infection can be cured if treated early, and if they are a local species, can be released.

There are legislated requirements governing the disposal of contaminated waste and sharps. Abiding by these requirements will protect other animals from cross-infection or injury.

Code of Practice for the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of Native Wildlife

5.4 Feeding

Objectives of feeding

- Minimisation of stress
- Recovery of health and natural behaviours
- Optimum growth in young animals
- Release of young animals as soon as is practical and at about the same age they would leave their parents in the wild

Key information

Good nutritional management is essential for rapid recovery and maximum healing potential, growth and normal development in young animals and for maximising the development of natural behaviour and survival techniques. Information on appropriate nutrition for different species of native animal can be obtained from various expert sources including CSIRO and University of Sydney.

Approximating the natural diet for the species and offering the food in the normal position the wild animal would find it minimises the impact of stress due to captivity and stimulates normal digestive function. For example a lizard must be fed where it lives on the ground and a nectivorous bird must be fed in foliage where it would normally find nectar.

Knowledge of the normal feeding habits of each species is necessary. Vitamin and mineral deficiency is a disorder associated with prolonged captivity in a wide range of species, and should be anticipated and prevented by proper diet with supplementation.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S5.4

S5.4.1 The carer must provide food of a suitable and balanced nutritional quality, as appropriate to the animal's species and age, in quantities sufficient to promote recovery or physical development, without overfeeding.

S 5.4.2 The carer must give all young animals being prepared for release (fledgling birds, juvenile mammals, independent reptiles, etc) at least 80% native foods of the type and species that are found at the release site so that they recognise food when released.

S5.4.3 The carer must ensure that water is available at all times and, if required by the species, must also provide bathing water.

S5.4.4 The carer must weigh all animals regularly to assess progress of rehabilitation.

Additional Information

Code of Practice for the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of Native Wildlife

Animals that are undernourished, overweight or unfit are less likely to survive after release. Quantity and quality of food are both important in maintaining weight and fitness close to the optimum. It should be noted that the feeding of live vertebrate prey to an animal is prohibited under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*. It is permissible to present for feeding freshly and humanely killed captive-bred prey.

5.5 Humanising and Imprinting

Objectives of prevention of humanising and imprinting

- Recovery of health and natural behaviours
- Prevention of humanisation or imprinting

Key information

Humanising occurs when a young animal is not allowed to develop at a natural rate due to inappropriate sequencing of food and housing during the rearing process and it becomes dependent on the carer. This condition potentially limits its chance of survival in the wild.

Imprinting occurs when a carer allows a young animal to think of him/her as a parent with the result that the animal either will not fully recognise con-specifics and may not survive in the wild, or when mature may approach humans for food or display mating behaviour.

In addition native animals raised with or in close proximity to domestic pets will not recognise these species as predators when released. For adult animals, the opposite problem occurs: the sight, sound and smell of domestic animals are highly stressful to them.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S5.5

The carer must:

- (a) avoid bonding closely with wild native animals that are being rehabilitated; and
- (b) avoid contact with the animal more than is necessary to provide appropriate care; and
- (c) minimise exposure of native animals to domestic pets and other people.

Additional information

Unless the animal is naturally of a solitary species, eg an echidna, every attempt should be made to raise two or more of the same species together. Methods that can be used to help avoid imprinting include minimising contact with an animal, not looking into the animal's eyes and not talking to the animal.

6. RELEASE OF ANIMALS TO THE WILD

Overall welfare objective:

Code of Practice for the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of Native Wildlife

- Release of the animal to the wild in a healthy and fit condition and in a location that will maximise its chance of survival in the wild

Objectives during release

- Release of rehabilitated animals in the area from which they came
- Release of hand-reared animals at a time and in an area where their chances of survival are maximised
- Release of animals only when they are physically and mentally acclimatised to prevailing conditions
- Release of animals only when they are physically fit and well

Key information

Wherever possible, the animal should be released into a suitable habitat, and location as close as possible to where it was collected without putting it at risk. If animals are released at locations remote from where they are found there are risks such as the spread of latent diseases or parasites into other native populations, genetic contamination and other negative impacts on wildlife populations, and the released individual, at the recipient site. The timing of release can also be important, eg for migratory species that are in a given region only at particular times of the year.

The animal should not be transported across a physical boundary that it would not normally cross or further than it would normally move.

Some examples of maximum distances moved by native animals are as follows:

- migratory birds and flying-foxes may move across eastern Australia;
- large kangaroos may move up to 100 km ;
- wombats may move up to 50 km;
- many mammals do not move further than 10 km and some territorial species, (eg brushtail possums), rarely move more than 100 m;
- many birds and reptiles do not move further than 1 km.

It is important for hunting animals or animals with highly specialised diets to have the skills necessary to survive in the wild without ongoing human assistance. In these cases, the animals may have to be taught to hunt or weaned to an appropriate diet prior to release.

Readiness for release should be confirmed by a veterinarian or experienced animal carer.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

Standard S6

S6.1 Before releasing a rehabilitated animal, the carer must ensure that:

- (a) the animal has been fed; and
- (b) the physical health of the animal (including fitness, freedom from disease and parasites, correct weight for age) is obtained; and
- (c) the animal has food-finding skills to survive in the wild; and
- (d) the animal can recognise and avoid predators (including pets); and
- (e) the animal is not humanised or imprinted (see section 5.5); and
- (f) if of a social species, hand reared animals can recognise and interact normally with con-specifics;
- (g) the animal is being released at a suitable time of year; and
- (h) the animal is released as soon as practical once it reaches health and fitness

- required in the wild; and
- (i) no animal is released under circumstances which may cause additional stress, such as extremes of weather, or the wrong time of day (eg releasing nocturnal animals during daylight).

S6.2 The carer must ensure that the release site:

- (a) is an appropriate habitat for the species; and
- (b) has adequate food resources; and
- (c) is occupied by members of the same species; and
- (d) does not place the animal at high risk of injury; and
- (e) has infrastructure for post-release support for hand-reared animals if required, eg. flying foxes.

S6.3 The carer must ensure that the release site is not:

- (a) subject to clearing or development in the near future;
- (b) a National Park or nature reserve, unless prior approval for the release has been obtained from the responsible ACT Government agency.

Additional information

Additional requirements apply to certain types of animal:

- Reptiles should be released only on warm days in spring or summer when their activity levels are high.
- Microbats, an insectivorous species, should be released only during periods of high insect abundance and when nights are warm, for example, spring and summer with night-time temperatures not under 12° C.
- A flying fox should be released at a time of day that enables it to immediately investigate its environment. Morning is an appropriate release time for an adult flying-fox being 'hard' released. Late afternoon is an appropriate release time for a flying-fox being 'soft' released from a creche.
- Social animals, such as parrots and gliders, should be housed in a group as early as possible to enable a social group to develop before release and be released in a group.
- Progeny of wildlife being held for rehabilitation should be released to the wild when self-sufficient and at the location where the mother was found.
- Possums should be supplied with a north-facing possum box and ringtail possums with a drey (nest), at least 3 metres high in a tree.

To achieve a better release outcome adult animals should be released to the area from where they came, as they are already familiar with food and shelter opportunities. However, if an animal is a territorial species and has been in care for enough time to lose its territory other release sites should be sought, for example, magpies can be released into a "juvenile" or "bachelor" group.

Hand-reared animals are best released at a time when wild juveniles of the same species are dispersing and in an area where con-specifics reside, where there is no likelihood of overcrowding, and where there is a plentiful food supply and shelter. This ensures that they are still recognised as a juvenile and do not have to compete with dominant adults.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Overall welfare objectives

- Alleviation of the immediate suffering of the animal
- Appropriate care during rescue, rehabilitation and rearing
- Release of the animal to the wild in a healthy and fit condition and in a location that will maximise its chance of survival in the wild

Objectives of administrative responsibilities

- Appropriate licensing of organisations which rehabilitate native animals
- Compliance with the conditions of the licence and this Code by organisation members
- Appropriate training and assessment of competence of organisation members before they are permitted to undertake rescue, rehabilitation or release of native animals

Key information

The *Nature Conservation Act 2014* requires records of the wildlife cared for by approved organisations and individuals to be kept as a condition of obtaining and holding a licence. Record keeping assists in the treatment, rehabilitation and release of the animals and will provide valuable case history information for the future, and provides an important resource for other carers.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

7.1 Carers (Organisations)

Standard S7.1

S7.1.1 Organisations that are licensed to rehabilitate and care for wildlife must:

- (a) clearly inform members of their responsibilities under the licence and this Code; and
- (b) monitor their members' activities to ensure they comply with the conditions of the licence and this Code; and
- (c) alert new members to the likely resource demands on the carer (both financial and in time), prior to their committing to the care of an animal; and
- (d) ensure that wildlife carers operating under their authority have relevant training and update skills every three years to keep up with current rehabilitation methods and changes to this Code and other relevant codes of practice; and
- (e) have in place procedures, in the event that a carer does not adhere to the licence and Code conditions, in the form of disciplinary recommendations with a time frame leading to possible membership termination.

S7.1.2 Wildlife carer organisations must not permit an individual to operate under the organisation's licence unless satisfied that the individual understands:

- (a) the objectives of animal rehabilitation; and
- (b) the basic principles of wildlife ecology (eg. population increase/decrease, habitat selection, competition, and predator-prey interactions); and

- (c) animal behaviour (eg. feeding, predator avoidance and social interactions); and
- (d) the health and safety issues associated with wildlife rehabilitation (eg. disease transmission, managing hazardous chemicals, such as cleaning chemicals and veterinary drugs, and operating in dangerous locations and times); and
- (e) how to keep accurate records.

S7.1.3 Wildlife carer organisations must not permit an individual to operate under the organisation's licence unless satisfied that the individual is competent in:

- (a) species identification; and
- (b) animal handling techniques for rescue, rehabilitation and release; and
- (c) first aid for injured animals; and
- (d) recognising the signs of disease; and
- (e) good animal husbandry (housing, food, hygiene requirements of each species' life stages).

S7.1.4 Wildlife carer organisations must not permit an individual to operate under the organisation's licence to care for flying foxes or bats unless the individual is vaccinated for Rabies.

7.2 Carers (Individuals)

Standard S7.2

Individual carers operating under a licence held by a wildlife carer organisation must:

- (a) abide by the rules of the organisation, the licence held by the organisation and relevant Codes of Practice; and
- (b) attend training, both initial and ongoing, and maintain skills and competencies in the care of native animals; and
- (c) be responsible for the welfare of each animal in their care during rehabilitation and release; and
- (d) maintain such records as are required by the rules of the organisation.

7.3 Importation and Exportation

Some circumstances require that native animals are either returned to NSW or brought into the ACT. In order to facilitate this a reciprocal Import/Export licence is required for each animal, issued by the relevant ACT and NSW licensing authorities.

Such circumstances may include where:

- facilities for care are unavailable in the ACT;
- release of an animal is to take place into a habitat that is no longer available in the ACT; or
- an animal has been rehabilitated in one jurisdiction but is to be released to the place it was found, which is in the other jurisdiction.

8. MEDIA ACCESS AND DISPLAY OF ANIMALS

Overall Welfare Objective

- Appropriate care during rescue, rehabilitation or rearing

Code of Practice for the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of Native Wildlife

Welfare objectives of media access and display of animals

- That the welfare of the animal is in no way compromised by additional stress
- That media access or display occurs only when the animal is at an appropriate stage of rehabilitation

Key information

Media access and displays of rescued animals or animals in care should be conducted only with the purpose of:

- training other carers;
- improving public awareness and consideration of the needs of native animals or animals generally;
- increasing awareness and appreciation of native animals or animals generally;
- conservation of the species and its habitat;
- recruitment of suitable carers; or
- fundraising for use in achieving the objectives of this Code.

A Letter of Authority to Display must be sought by the organisation for each event from the Licensing Officer at TAMS as required by the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*.

In general, native animals are not appropriate for public display because stress may compromise their wellbeing. Some animals may be less stressed than others by such exposure, for example, a pouched animal is less stressed than a juvenile. Media access may, in some cases, encourage interest in native animals and their rehabilitation as well as membership of native animal organisations.

Each case should be carefully considered in light of the carer's knowledge of the animal's temperament ensuring the access or display does not compromise the rehabilitation process.

Mandatory standards for achieving objectives

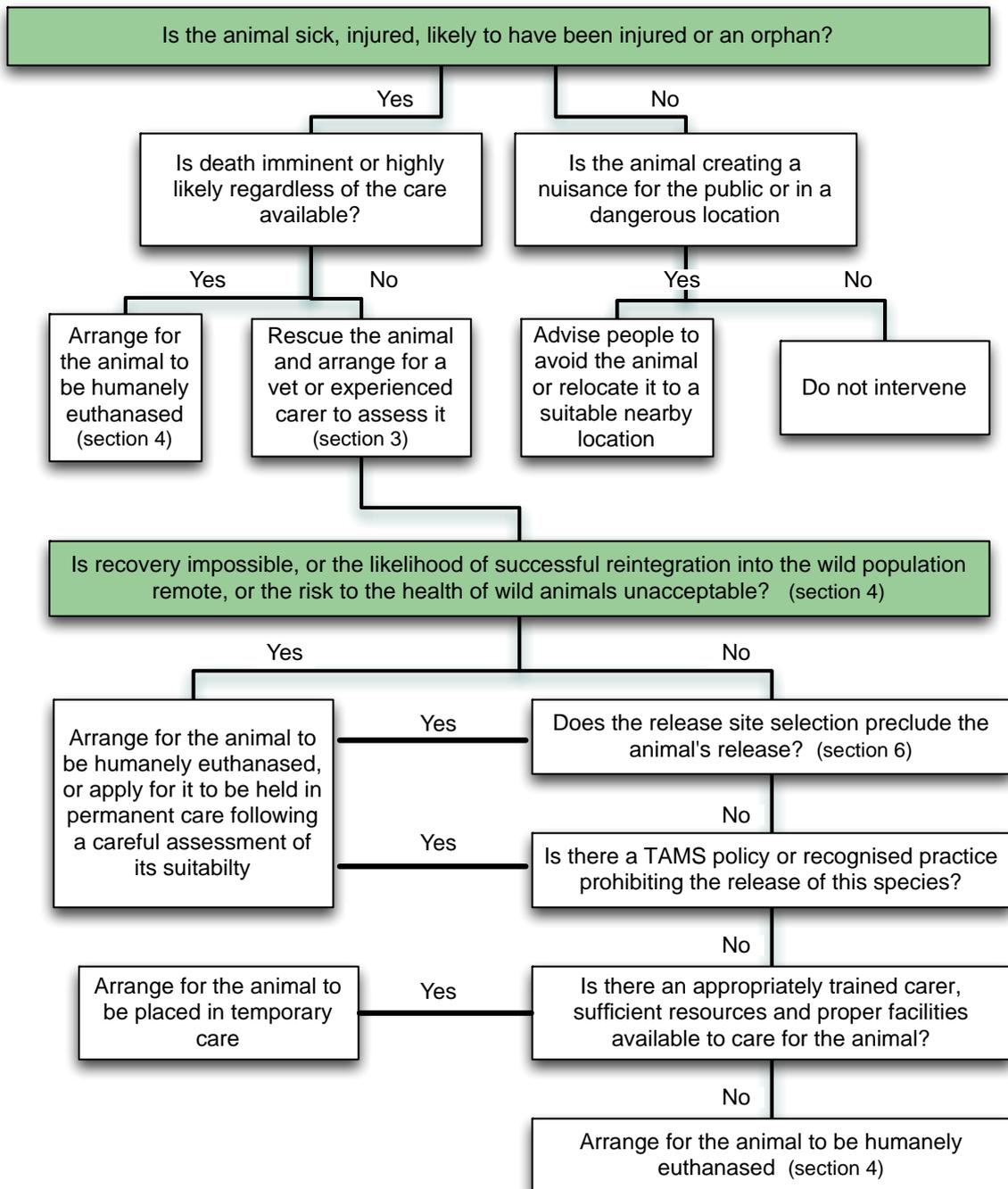
Standard S8

The carer must not display animals unless:

- (a) it is considered necessary for the successful rehabilitation of the animal or supports the process of wildlife rehabilitation; and
- (b) the welfare of the animal is not compromised in any way; and
- (c) the animal is at a stage of rehabilitation where it is unlikely to be stressed by the exposure; and
- (d) the conditions of the Letter of Authority to Display issued by TAMS are met.

APPENDIX 1 Decision Tree for rescue and rehabilitation.

This decision tree must be followed when determining how to respond to an encounter with a native animal.



APPENDIX 2 Recommended enclosure sizes for temporary housing of fauna being rehabilitated.

These recommended enclosure sizes are referenced from the NSW Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna.

Birds

Birds Type of bird (examples)	Critical care L x W x H (m)	Intermediate Care L x W x H (m)	Pre-release L x W x H (m)	Pond size (as % of total floor area)
Small passerines, finches and wrens	0.25 x 0.15 x 0.2	0.5 x 0.4 x 0.7	1.6 x 1.3 x 2.2	N/A
Small passerines, parrots and pigeons	0.35 x 0.3 x 0.45	0.5 x 0.4 x 0.65	2.3 x 1.5 x 1.8	N/A
Large passerines, parrots, pigeons, magpies and cockatoos	0.5 x 0.4 x 0.65	1 x 0.5 x 0.65	2.3 x 1.6 x 1.8	N/A
Juvenile small waterbirds (ducks and grebes)	0.4 x 0.4 x 0.5	2 x 2 x 2	4 x 2 x 2	25%
Adult small waterbirds (ducks and grebes)	1 x 1 x 1.5	2 x 2 x 2	4 x 2 x 2	30%
Juvenile large waterbirds (swans and herons)	0.7 x 0.7 x 1	1 x 1 x 1.5	4 x 2 x 2	40%
Adult large waterbirds (swans and herons)	1 x 1 x 1.5	2 x 2 x 2	6 x 3 x 2	60%
Small seabirds (gulls, cormorants and terns)	0.4 x 0.4 x 0.5	0.6 x 0.6 x 1	4 x 2 x 2	35%
Large seabirds (albatrosses and pelicans)	0.7 x 0.7 x 1	1.5 x 1 x 1.5	6 x 3 x 2	60%
Small raptors (kestrels and hobbies)	0.5 x 0.5 x 0.8 (mf)	2 x 2 x 2 (mf)	5 x 3 x 5 (mf)	N/A
Juvenile large raptors (eagles, hawks and falcons)	0.5 x 0.4 x 0.65 (mf)	1 x 1 x 1 (mf)	15 x 10 x 4 (mf)	N/A
Adult large raptors (eagles, hawks and falcons)	1 x 1 x 1 (mf)	3 x 3 x 3 (mf)	15 x 10 x 4 (mf)	N/A
Juvenile emus	0.7 x 0.4 x 0.5	2 x 2 x 2	5 x 3 x 2	N/A
Adult emus	1.5 x 0.7 x 1	5 x 5 x 2	10 x 10 x 2	N/A

Note: (mf) denotes mesh-free enclosure

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Mammals

Mammals Type of mammal (examples)	Critical care L x W x H (m)	Intermediate care L x W x H (m)	Pre-release L x W x H (m)
Small bats (microbats)	0.3 x 0.2 x 0.3	0.4 x 0.4 x 0.5	5 x 3 x 2
Large bats (megabats)	0.4 x 0.3 x 0.3	0.8 x 0.5 x 1	10 x 4 x 2 (Can house up to 30 bats)
Small dasyurids and rodents (antechinus & mice)	0.4 x 0.3 x 0.35	1 x 0.3 x 1 (b, r)	1.5 x 2 x 1 (b, r)
Large dasyurids and rodents (quolls, phascogales and water rats)	0.5 x 0.3 x 0.5	1 x 1 x 1 (b, r)	3 x 2 x 2 (b, r)
Bandicoots, potoroos and bettongs	0.5 x 0.5 x 1	1 x 1 x 1 (b, r)	4 x 3 x 2 (b, r)
Large macropods (grey kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos)	1.5 x 0.7 x 2	5 x 5 x 2 (o)	50 x 30 x 2 (o)
Small possums and gliders (pygmy possums and feathertail gliders)	0.3 x 0.2 x 0.5	0.6 x 0.3 x 1 (r)	2 x 1 x 2 (r)
Large possums (ringtail and brushtail possums)	0.5 x 0.5 x 1	1 x 1 x 1 (r)	3 x 2 x 2 (r)
Large gliders (greater gliders and sugar gilders)	0.4 x 0.3 x 1	1 x 1 x 1 (r)	6 x 3 x 3 (r)
Koalas	0.7 x 0.7 x 0.7	2 x 1 x 2	4 x 3 x 3 (o)
Echidnas	0.5 x 0.5 x 0.5	1.5 x 1.5 x 1 (b, o, s)	5 x 4 x 1 (b, o, s)

Note: (b) denotes below ground barrier

(o) denotes open top enclosure with shelter provided

(r) denotes roofed enclosure with appropriate sized mesh

(s) denotes smooth sided enclosure

- Height for mice, antechinus is above substrate.
- Swamp wallabies require shrub cover, a minimum of 1.5m above ground.

Reptiles

Type of reptile (examples)	Critical care L x W x H (m)	Intermediate care and Pre-release L x W x H (m)
Geckos and small skink (garden skinks)	0.3 x 0.2 x 0.25	0.4x 0.25 x 0.3
Large skinks (blue-tongue lizards)	0.8 x 0.4 x 0.4	1.2 x 0.4 x 0.4
Small dragons (bearded dragons)	0.3 x 0.20 x 0.25	0.4x 0.25 x 0.3
Small freshwater turtles (eastern snake-necked turtles) up to 15cm shell	0.8 x 0.4 x 0.4	1.20 x 0.4 x 0.4
Large freshwater turtles - over 15cm shell	1.20 x 0.4 x 0.4	1.80 x 0.6 x 0.6

APPENDIX 3 Useful Information Sources

Useful contacts for information regarding the care and release of wildlife

ACT Wildlife Ph 0432 300 033
www.actwildlife.net

RSPCA-ACT Ph. BH 6287 8100 AH. 0413 495 031
www.rspca-act.org.au

ACT Chief Veterinary Officer: Access Canberra 132281

ACT Government: Access Canberra 132281
https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/406/kw/Exempt
native animals

For advice on identification of wildlife and treatment of disease and injury

Wildlife Hospital - Taronga Zoo Ph. BH: 02 9969 2777

Wildlife Hospital - Taronga Western Plains Zoo Ph. BH: 02 6882 5888

Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital Ph 24hrs 1300 369 652
http://www.wildlifewarriors.org.au/wildlife_hospital/index.html
Email: hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au

Healesville Sanctuary Ph. BH: 1300 966 784
<http://www.zoo.org.au/healesville>

For notification of disease outbreak and information

ACT Chief Veterinary Officer: Canberra Connect 132281

Australian Wildlife Health Network Ph. BH M-F 02 9960 6333
<https://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/>

Local wildlife care organisations (close to ACT)

Wildcare Queanbeyan 02 6299 1966
<http://www.wildcare.com.au/>

WIRES (Southern Tablelands - Goulburn) 02 4822 3888
<https://www.wires.org.au/branch/SouthernTablelands>

LAOKO (Jindabyne) 02 6456 1313
<https://laokosmwr.org/>

NARG (Braidwood) 02 4846 1900.
<http://www.narg.asn.au/>

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For organisations around Australia

NSW Wildlife Council <https://www.nwc.org.au/>

A search facility for all Australian Wildlife Care Organisations can be found at www.fauna.org.au

Contacts amended 7.7.20