

BIRD CARE AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC SA

MAGAZINE

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Domestic pigeon (*Columba livia*) cooling off during February 2004 40°C plus heatwave.

Except with documented official representation from the Management Committee of BCCS, no person is authorised to represent the Society on any matter.

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BCCS book, T-shirt and cap



Australian gannet (immature)
(*Morus serrator*)



Bulletin Board

BCCS Annual General Meeting ***See article P2***

Sunday March 21st 2004

Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street

Starts at 2pm.

Baby Cereal

BCCS will be ordering baby cereal in April. The cost (including freight) is \$40/10Kgm bag. Please contact Pam on 8390 3254 to place your order. Members who gave their order at the January meeting at the Arkaba or since, have been recorded and don't need to call unless they want to change their order.

Standard Operating Procedures for native species rescue and release released by DEH (See attachment to this magazine)

Bird Statistics

Please give your March quarter rescue details (for January, February, March) to Bob Hall for collation ph 8296 2913. Bird rescues for December 2003 quarter = 1,727 (plus 78 other animals referred to BCCS members by RSPCA). Total birds helped for 2003 =4,291. Without receiving these returns from you, the committee finds it difficult to assess what support you need with the purchase of bird food

New Members

The Bird Care and Conservation Society welcomes the following new members:

Diane McGrath	College Park.
Amanda Stewart	Killara NSW.
John & Dawn Hilditch	Christies Beach
Diane Anderson	Stepney

BCCS AGM 2004

The 2004 Annual General Meeting for the Bird Care and Conservation Society will be a turning point in life of the Society.

Bird Care does not have enough active members to handle the number of orphaned injured and sick wild birds referred for care. Many members who have cared for these birds for years are no longer able to do so and wish to retire.

It has been suggested and strongly supported by the current committee that Bird Care ceases to take in wild birds for care and instead becomes a referral for advice only. This would mean updating and maintaining the Bird Care website, supplying fact sheets and referring callers to the BCCS book and a member specialising in the species of bird concerned, for advice only.

Members still wishing to accept birds from the public would need to make this known to the RSPCA, their local vets, Department of Environment, local Council etc.

Some of the changes suggested may need the BCCS constitution to be amended so it is very important that if you care for the future of your Society then you attend the AGM on Sunday to partake in discussions and vote on any motions put to the meeting.

Essential Rehydration of Birds

*By Rena Robinson - Goolwa
Member of BCCS and Wildlife Welfare
Organisation*

When a bird is presented with severe injury or illness the mistaken belief is to place them in a warm, dark, quiet environment and see if they die or not - in the short term

at least. This seems to be more of the norm if they are presented in the evening and, depending on if they are alive or not in the morning, some treatment may be given at that time.

I believe we can improve our standard of care and also improve outcomes for the bird by restoring and monitoring hydration in this early period.

If your assessment of the bird has concluded that it is critically ill, the bird may not tolerate the stress of physical examination. Thus all examinations should be done expeditiously or you may decide to delay this until another time.

We need to assess if the bird is severely shocked, and whether a short period of rest and warmth is appropriate. I tend to consider the commencement of restoring and maintaining hydration of the bird at this very early stage.

The methods of administration for most wildlife carers are the subcutaneous, crop needle/tube or by syringe methods. It is interesting to note that some absorption rates from subcutaneous sites can be poor when compared to those from the gastrointestinal tract. Thus fluids given via the crop tube are quite effective and if the bird is tolerating fluids via the syringe even this method is reasonably effective. In fact any method is better than not giving fluids at all.

How much fluid do I give?

Dehydration can be assumed to be present in any bird suffering from trauma or infectious disease. For most birds it is safe to assume a level of 10% dehydration. So for a sick galah weighing 320 grams the approximate fluid deficit would be 32mls.



The ongoing daily maintenance of the bird is estimated at 50mls per Kg per day based on the normal expected weight of the

healthy bird, i.e. the normal body weight of our galah is 352 grams, the estimated daily maintenance would be $50\text{mls} \times 0.352 = 17.6$ mls.

Don't despair if your maths are not up to scratch. The following tables are ready calculations based on bodyweight, assuming a 10% dehydration and delivering the maintenance requirement plus 50% of the fluid deficit in the first 24 hours and the maintenance requirement plus 25% of the fluid deficit on the second and third days.

If it is difficult, or not appropriate to weigh the bird, get to know approximate weights of common birds such as galahs, magpies and lorikeets. You will be amazed at how quickly you can start to assess weights by look and feel. Please don't get too caught up in the exactness of all the figures. It is only a guide, but at least it is something we haven't had before. I believe in most cases we have been administering grossly low volumes of fluid to re-hydrate our birds. Using the oral route, the final volumes required are divided into several convenient volumes administered during the day. The maximum volume administered into the crop is based on filling the crop to 50-65% of its volume to minimise the risk of regurgitation and aspiration.

What sort of fluids should I give?

Another priority in this initial stabilisation period is to correct the negative energy balance by supplying nutrition and high energy supplementation. Feeding amounts vary with the bird and its condition. Start with small amounts and gradually increase the volume as the bird accommodates more food without regurgitating.

A number of commercial and homemade hand-rearing mixes are available. High protein formulas, (exceeding approximately 25% protein) should be avoided in severely ill birds with compromised liver function - instead a high-carbohydrate formula with approximately 18-20% protein should be used.

Products such as "Poly-aid" (Vetfarm) are useful in providing a sustained release caloric and protein supplementation. This can be purchased at most veterinary clinics

or by contacting Vetfarm by (02) 6925 6222. The powder is mixed into a slurry and administered via crop needle/tube, syringe or spoon. This mix is very sticky so try to avoid too much contamination on the feathers.

Another similar product I find most useful is Spark-Electrovet. This again is a carbohydrate and oral electrolyte supplement particularly useful for the treatment of stress, exhaustion and dehydration in birds. In the absence of Spark (the best) use Lectade or Gastrolyte. Spark-Electrovet is available from Vetfarm (number as above) or see if your local veterinary clinic can order it for you. The powder readily dissolves in water and does not leave any sticky residues.

Taking the scenario again with an injured galah weighing approximately 350grams, I would generally administer Spark-Electrovet, up to 10mls if possible in the initial phase. With sick galahs I find wrapping them in a towel and administering the fluid with a syringe, slowly, works pretty well. If you are proficient with crop feeding - go for it. I would then place the bird in a dark, warm and quiet environment. If the bird still looks sick I would repeat the Spark (up to 10mls) about 3 hours later. If the bird looks slightly improved I would administer some Polyaid instead of the Spark. I always deliver some fluids before leaving the bird overnight.

I do not profess to have the answer to save all of our injured or sick birds, and despite this rehydration regime many still do die - they have already made that decision. But I believe if we feel more confident about the treatment we do deliver and are more knowledgeable about how to go about this treatment, we feel we have given them the chance of a better outcome and could have made the difference between life and death.

If you would like to discuss any of the above information or add to it I would really like to hear from you. You can contact me on 8555 5007.

Bibliography: Birds 2000 - The KVF Jubb Refresher Course For Veterinarians.

The rehydration notes were taken from Doug Black and the ready calculations chart was devised by Mike Cannon.

Avian Fluid Therapy Assuming 10% dehydration			
Weight (gms)	Maintenance (mls)	1st 24 hrs (mls)	2nd & 3rd 24 hrs(mls)
20	1	2	1.5
25	1.25	2.5	1.88
30	1.5	3	2.25
35	1.75	3.5	2.63
40	2	4	3
45	2.25	4.5	3.38
50	2.5	5	3.75
55	2.75	5.5	4.13
60	3	6	4.5
65	3.25	6.5	4.88
70	3.5	7	5.25
75	3.75	7.5	5.63
80	4	8	6
85	4.25	8.5	6.38
90	4.5	9	6.75
95	4.75	9.5	7.13
100	5	10	7.5
105	5.25	10.5	7.88
110	5.5	11	8.25
115	5.75	11.5	8.63
120	6	12	9
125	6.25	12.5	9.38
130	6.5	13	9.75
135	6.75	13.5	10.13
140	7	14	10.5
145	7.25	14.5	10.88
150	7.5	15	11.25
155	7.75	15.5	11.63
160	8	16	12
165	8.25	16.5	12.38
170	8.5	17	12.75
175	8.75	17.5	13.13
180	9	18	13.5
185	9.25	18.5	13.88
190	9.5	19	14.25
195	9.75	19.5	14.63
200	10	20	15
205	10.25	20.5	15.38
210	10.5	21	15.75
215	10.75	21.5	16.13
220	11	22	16.5
225	11.25	22.5	16.88
230	11.5	23	17.25
235	11.75	23.5	17.63
240	12	24	18
245	12.25	24.5	18.38
250	12.5	25	18.75
255	12.75	25.5	19.13
260	13	26	19.5
265	13.25	26.5	19.88
270	13.5	27	20.25
275	13.75	27.5	20.63
280	14	28	21
285	14.25	28.5	21.38
290	14.5	29	21.75
295	14.75	29.5	22.13
300	15	30	22.5
305	15.5	30.5	22.88
310	15.75	31	23.25
315	16	31.5	23.63
320	16.25	32	24
325	16.5	32.5	24.38
330	16.75	33	24.75
335	17	33.5	25.13
340	17.25	34	25.5
345	17.5	34.5	25.88

350	17.75	35	26.25
355	18	35.5	26.63
360	18.25	36	27
365	18.5	36.5	27.38
370	18.75	37	27.75
375	19	37.5	28.13
380	19.25	38	28.5
385	19.5	38.5	28.88
390	19.75	39	29.25
395	20	39.5	29.63
400	20.25	40	30
405	20.5	40.5	30.38
410	20.75	41	30.75
415	21	41.5	31.13
420	21.25	42	31.5
425	21.5	42.5	31.88
430	21.75	43	32.25
435	22	43.5	32.63
440	22.25	44	33
445	22.5	44.5	33.38

Minton Farm - Update

Well the Dinner/ Auction was a huge success. It was a very warm, friendly atmosphere enjoyed by 370 friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Approximately 100 people were unable to be accommodated due to lack of room in the Hungarian Club - rather a lovely problem to have, but one not anticipated. We will endeavour to hold another function to accommodate those who missed out. The local band 'Djerno' kept our feet tapping, and the waitresses bopping throughout the evening. The Auction conducted by Tony Tagney was lively and well supported. The silent auction was great fun for all, with many bargains being won, thanks to the 100's of donors of goods and services.

The funds generated have been invested into a Trust Account set up by our committee, to be used for the legal costs and costs of improvements demanded by the 18 conditions set in the Sanctuary land use approval. Thankyou to all who attended, donated and supported the occasion.

The rescue work has continued throughout these events, with many delightful creatures and experiences of release and survival. A young Heron came in that had fallen 60 feet from its nest in Hahndorf. A beautiful Peregrine Falcon came in from Callington, that had a dislocated shoulder, which has been strapped by a Vet, as well as a

Collared Sparrowhawk, that had some shattered bone removed from its wing.

One young lady who had volunteered at the Farm for 6 years, left to live in America last year. Her family returned to Australia for a holiday, and she returned for the Friday volunteer group, and was involved in assisting with the Dinner/ Auction. At only 12 years old, this young lady has demonstrated an incredible devotion to the work, from across the world. It has been wonderful to see her again, and I look forward to seeing her as a young lady in the future - marvellous experiences for us all.

Another young lady who has volunteered for 4 years at Minton Farm, as a work experience student from Wilderness School, attended the pelican workshop with me that was run by Lance Ferris from NSW. She was so inspired by it, that she has started her own Seabird Rescue group, and patrols Semaphore and Port Adelaide, assisting injured pelicans and cormorants. I nominated her for the Young Achievers Award, and she has made it through to the finals. If she wins the \$1,000 in a prestigious Award Ceremony in April, she plans to buy equipment and uniforms for her work. Truly a young achiever who I am proud to have assisted.

The volunteer groups have attracted a new influx of marvellous workers, happy to share each others company and work as a team to achieve great results (and enjoy a coffee and cake!). The camaraderie experienced by all is heart warming, as we work to improve the animals' welfare daily.

We will be holding a 'Circle of Influence' at the Cherry Gardens Oval on the 2nd April at 7.30 pm, to spread love, joy and celebration throughout the District. These positive energies are sent out as a community healing to mend the rift in the community, and override the negative energies present. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a drink, supper to share, and a chair, and we will provide the rest! If the weather is inclement, we will gather at a neighbouring house, so call 8270 1169 to check if you are uncertain.

The four day Court Trial was set for May, changed to April, and now postponed until mid-June, just to keep us on edge!!

Many thanks,

Bev Langley

Lost and Found Pet Birds

From time to time callers contact Bird Care members in search of a pet bird they have lost or to report a pet bird that they have found.

The first person to refer the caller to is our lost and found officer Kay on 8270 4445. Kay keeps a comprehensive list of lost and found birds reported to her or advertised in the newspapers.

The web master has suggested that a lost and found section could be included on the Bird Care website. If you receive a lost or found call, as well as referring them to Kay you can refer them to Pam on 8390 3254 if they would like the bird to be included in a lost and found section of the website.

Bird Netting for Sale

Vineyard bird netting superfluous to requirement, 5m wide by 25m lengths, \$1/metre. Good for protecting vegetable gardens, seedlings, fruit trees, covering cocky cages to keep small birds in or out, temporary aviaries etc.

Contact Pam ph 8390 3254



Australian magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)

DEH - STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

NATIVE SPECIES - RESCUE AND RELEASE

1. INTRODUCTION

These operating procedures concern the rescue, care and rehabilitation of sick, injured or orphaned protected native animals and the release or retention in captivity of those animals.

The administrating agency is the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH).

2. OBJECTIVES

DEH will:

- Ensure a consistent State wide application relating to rescued native animals.
- Ensure that the provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985* relating to a rescued animal are communicated to and understood by DEH Staff.

3. PROCEDURES

3.1 RESCUE

A “rescue” is defined as the act of assisting a native animal perceived to require immediate help.

Rescues apply to the following situations:-

- Sick animals (eg. loss of sight, unable to run/climb, unable to feed).
- Animals suffering obvious injuries including animals injured by vehicle or window strikes.
- Orphaned dependent young animals.
- Captive escapees that have no apparent chance of feeding themselves.
- Animals impacted by natural disasters eg wildfire, oil or chemical spills, pollutants, poisons, etc.
- Humanised animals (either escaped or released).
- Animals in imminent danger eg located on a busy roadway.

All animals should be properly assessed prior to any rescue attempt.

A person finding a non endemic, healthy animal eg Queensland Carpet Python found in metropolitan Adelaide, should contact DEH for advice.

Animals should **not** be rescued in the following situations:-

- Healthy animals (eg koala in tree).
- Healthy juvenile animals eg “L-Plate” birds or hatchling reptiles.
- Nectar feeders which get “drunk” from eating nectar at certain times of the year.
- If the rescue is dangerous and puts human life at risk eg koala on a busy highway, injured venomous snake.

3.2 PRINCIPLES

In most cases, the rescue of a native animal has little direct conservation value. This may not be the case for an endangered, vulnerable or rare animal.

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Participation of the public in rearing rescued animals may indirectly contribute to greater community knowledge of native species. In addition, where appropriate the display of a rescued native animal unable to be returned to the wild has an important role in public education.

There is no conservation value in releasing a common animal back to the wild, particularly if it is behaviourally, physically or otherwise impaired.

The welfare of an individual animal and the preservation of an individual animal's life are intrinsically important.

3.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

In general DEH does not become involved in rescuing native animals. DEH does not fund animal rescue organisations or individual carers who voluntarily undertake this task.

DEH officers may receive requests from the public regarding seriously injured kangaroos or possums on roadsides. These requests are referred to the appropriate animal rescue group or the RSPCA, who may be able to have the animal humanely euthanased.

There are a number of volunteer organisations and individuals in South Australia who care for rescued animals. Their responsibilities are to: -

- Arrange an early assessment of a rescued animal;
- Provide appropriate care for the animal; and
- Adequately prepare an animal for survival in the wild if the animal is to be released.

DEH provides a referral service by acting as a receiving point for public inquiries regarding the collection and care of injured or orphaned wildlife and directs callers to the nearest appropriate rescue organisation.

3.4 HOLDING

Holding is defined as placing a rescued animal into care, either on a short term or long term basis.

A person intending to care for a rescued animal should only do so if the carer has adequate time, appropriate facilities, appropriate skills and sufficient knowledge of species concerned (including compatibility both with conspecifics and other species). A carer must be able to ensure that the necessary hygiene, safety and welfare standards can be met. A carer must ensure that appropriate treatment for an animal's injuries, disease or illness is sought and can be carried out.

If a person does not have the skills or knowledge to care for a rescued animal, that person can care for the animal under the supervision of an experienced carer (or mentor).

An experienced and competent person should properly assess all animals prior to holding.

Where a person is incapable of providing for the needs of an animal they should transfer the rescued animal to another carer forthwith.

A person should not hold a rescued animal if:-

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- The person is inexperienced and unsupervised.
- The person has inadequate facilities.
- The person cannot afford to provide the animal with food, treatment, housing etc.
- The person has insufficient time to care for the animal.
- The animal is difficult to keep without specialist skills (eg. echidnas).
- The animal is a marine mammal (RSPCA excepted).
- Koalas are to be consigned to Cleland Wildlife Park DEH forthwith.
- The animal was in imminent danger of being run over eg reptiles on roads. If possible and safe to do so, these animals may be removed from the danger site and relocated to a nearby location forthwith. In general, it is not necessary to take the animal into captivity.

An animal that is intended for eventual or immediate release should not be placed on public display.

3.5 RESCUE PERMITS

An individual rescuing a protected animal requires a rescue permit issued under the provision of Section 53(1)(d) of the Act.

The Act defines a protected animal as: -

- any mammal, bird or reptile indigenous to Australia; or
- any migratory mammal, bird or reptile that periodically or occasionally migrates to, and lives in, Australia; or
- any animal of a species referred to in schedule 7, 8 or 9 of the Act; or
- any animal of a species declared by regulation to be a species of protected animals.

Introduced non-native species (eg starling, European blackbird, fox, rabbit, domestic pigeon, domestic cat and domestic dog) or an unprotected native animal referred to in schedule 10 of the Act (or any animals declared by regulation to be unprotected) does not require a rescue permit issued under the provisions of the Act.

This includes Zebra Finch (*Poephila guttata*), Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*), Grey-backed Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis halmaturina*), Galah (*Cacatua roseicapilla*), Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*), Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), Little Crow (*Corvus bennetti*), Australian Crow (*Corvus orru ceciliae*), Little Raven (*Corvus mellori*) and Wild Dog (Dingo) (*Canis familiaris*).

Rescue permits may be issued to an individual but not to a rescue group or organisation. Applicants for a rescue permit must reside in South Australia.

If the rescued animal is not to be returned to the wild the carer should apply for a permit as soon as possible after rescuing the animal.

A number of rescues involve providing an animal with short term respite and then releasing the animal back to the wild. Due to the rapid turnaround of these rescues, it is unreasonable to require carers to apply for a rescue permit in these instances. Consequently DEH will not undertake any legal action against a person who rescues an animal from the wild, returns the animal to the wild as soon as possible (but no more than 4 weeks after the animal being rescued) and does not obtain a rescue permit.

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If a person rescues any Black Cockatoos, monotremes (echidnas, platypus) or koalas they are to immediately contact the duty officer DEH for advice.

In all situations it is essential that full details of possession be recorded by the carer to substantiate the source and progress of the animal.

Details of a rescued animal are to be recorded in the permit holder's Protected Animals Record Book.

Rescue permits are not always issued. A person will be advised in writing if their application is refused. The permit may be subject to special conditions (eg releasing the animal when it can fend for itself).

If an individual keeps more than one native animal [listed as basic: refer to schedule 6 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2001*] or keeps an animal of a specialist species, that person must obtain a permit under section 58 of the Act. Two options are available:-

- **A permit to Keep Rescued Animals** (hereinafter referred to as "KRA") that entitles the holder to keep any animals taken under a section 53(1)(d) rescue permit. Those persons wishing to keep specialist animals will be required to be endorsed for those species. Applicants will be assessed to ensure they have the necessary skills, experience and enclosures to keep the specialist animals. There will be no fee applying to KRA permits. Persons keeping an animal under a KRA will not be able to sell or otherwise dispose of the animal. The KRA will not apply to the progeny of rescued animals. If a person keeping animals under a KRA subsequently breeds from those animals the permit holder will be required to obtain a Keep and Sell permit and pay a permit fee.
- **A basic or specialist Keep and Sell permit.** If a person keeps more than one native animal [listed as basic] or keeps an animal of a specialist species, that person will be required to obtain a Keep and Sell permit. Keep and Sell permit holders will be required to pay an annual permit fee.

A person must not sell, give, exchange or otherwise dispose of a rescued animal. However, a transfer may be allowed in special circumstances. The permit holder is required to seek approval in writing, prior to transfer. The progeny of rescued animals may be sold as long as the carer has the appropriate Keep and Sell permit.

If an animal is rescued in another State (eg an Eastern grey kangaroo joey rescued by a truck driver) and imported into South Australia the carer must apply for an import permit. The animal must not have been acquired in contravention of other State's legislation.

Permit holders moving interstate must apply for an export permit. Before moving they are advised to check with the relevant State wildlife agency to ascertain the requirements for keeping the species concerned.

3.6 THE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION PROCESS

Each application for a rescue permit needs to be assessed by a National Parks and Wildlife warden. The following will be taken into consideration in assessing the application:-

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Acquisition by novices. At times well-meaning members of the public keep a rescued animal in breach of the Act. Such individuals may lack the necessary skills and experience to care for the animal. As a result the animal may be in a state of neglect or distress. The welfare of the animal is the main concern of DEH and individuals should be encouraged to surrender the animal to an experienced carer or to care for the animal under the guidance of a person experienced in the keeping of that species.

Illegal Acquisition of an animal. Some individuals use the rescue permit system to acquire an animal for illegal purposes. The officer assessing the rescue application must pay particular attention to species that are sought after in the trade, such as the Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, wombats, pythons and some lizards. The carer may be required to provide a tissue/blood sample from the animal for DNA analysis and/or allow a threatened species to be implanted with a microchip.

Appropriate Care and assessment. The animal's welfare is of paramount concern and prolonged suffering must be prevented. To this end, a rapid and accurate assessment of an individual animal is important. The applicant must have appropriate qualifications, experience and facilities to care for a particular species. Applicants without relevant experience must have access to an experienced carer, who can supply the necessary guidance and supervision.

Rehabilitation. Carers must possess the ability to assess the animal's potential for recovery and release when taking the animal into care.

3.7 RELEASE

Release is defined as reintroducing rescued animals back into the wild.

The release of a rescued animal is acceptable if:-

- it is a self-sustainable animal and the release conducted is within 48 hours of rescue (within its home range and is not a biosecurity risk)
- Beyond 48 hours, a release can be conducted only if it meets release criteria (refer to part 3.8)
- the release is conducted in accordance with a Threatened Species Recovery Plan

A carer is to consider the following factors prior to release:- time of year, weather conditions, territory, predators, adequate food supply, hibernation, habitat availability, competition for resources and socialisation. A carer should use the precautionary principle - if there is any doubt don't release.

3.8 RELEASE CRITERIA

An animal being released must be self-sustainable, physically fit, weaned and able to recognise natural food. It must be released as close as possible to the point of capture provided that it is within its natural range.

An animal being released must not be imprinted, incapacitated, a biosecurity risk, actively showing disease signs, non endemic to the area or unlikely to survive.

A release is **not** to be undertaken if the rescued animal is a handreared, humanised animal of any species. There are situations where humanised animals may survive if released under a stringent conditions (eg magpies & possums), however the release of these animals can only be undertaken if a management plan is prepared and is approved by the Director, National Parks and Wildlife.

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Animals with permanent disabilities and exotic animals (eg turtle doves, Barbary doves, sparrows) are not to be released (the latter is an offence under the *Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes Act)*).

3.9 PERMIT TO RELEASE

The Act provides restrictions on the release of a native animal from captivity. Section 55 of the Act states “A person must not release a protected animal or an animal of a species listed in schedule 10 (ie. an unprotected animal such as a galah, zebra finch, budgerygah, little Corella) from captivity unless that person is authorised to do so by a permit granted by the Minister”, or released in line with an approved management plan.

Permission to release a rescued animal onto private land is required from the landholder.

The release of an animal into a National Park, Conservation Park, Game Reserve, Recreation Park, Regional Reserve or Wilderness Protection Area is only permitted under an approved recovery program.

The release of an animal on other Crown land is only permitted with the approval of the relevant authority.

3.10 EUTHANASIA

Euthanasia is the quick and humane killing of a rescued animal.

Animals are to be euthanased where there is an unacceptable degree of disability or suffering, where the animal is dying (eg mangy possums) or diseased, infectious animals.

A person killing an animal should consider their own safety, public safety, efficacy, available humane techniques, sensitivities of bystanders, and aesthetics.

In cases where the rescued animal is listed as a threatened species, the carer should contact a veterinarian and DEH before euthanasing the animal. Obviously, if the animal is in extreme distress and there is no other alternative, euthanasia may have to be performed even in these cases.

If the animal cannot be euthanased quickly in a humane manner it should be taken to a local veterinary surgeon.

A rescued animal should not be euthanased if there is a humane practical alternative.

3.11 PERMANENT CAPTIVITY

Permanent captivity is the holding of rescued animals where there is no intention to release that animal and includes:

- captive escapees
- anything that is unreleasable (eg permanent disability)
- anything of unknown origin
- hand reared imprinted animals

An animal should not be kept as a permanent captive if it will not settle in captivity

Rescued animals should only be placed on public display if the animal does not suffer stress and there is an educational benefit in doing so. Groups or individuals are encouraged to prepare a code of practice for the display of rescued animals.

DEH - STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

NATIVE SPECIES - RESCUE AND RELEASE

4. REVIEW OF POLICY:

The policy shall be subject to review on an ongoing basis by DEH.

5. LEGISLATION

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.

National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2001.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985.

The Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) Act 1986.

6. APPENDICES AND REFERENCES

Draft “*Guidelines for the Rescue and Rehabilitation of Native Animals*”. Dated 22 December 1998 prepared by Dr Deb Kelly, Manager, Resource Protection, Gary Fitzpatrick, Operations Manager, Cleland, Bob Chance, IT Support Kensington, Robin Storr, Biodiversity Partnerships, Peter Alexander, Manager, Biodiversity Conservation Program and Frank Dal Piva, Manager, Compliance.

Paton, J.B., Bird, P.L., Dal Piva, F., Inns, R.W., Kelly, D.K. and Storr R.F., 1998; *The Common Brushtail Possum in South Australia*, Fauna Management Coordinating Committee, Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, Adelaide.

NPWSA. Draft *Koala Policy, Rescue, Transport, Holding and Transfer*. Draft dated 25 March 2002

This policy was endorsed by the CFCC at its meeting on 11 August 2003

This policy was endorsed by the WAC at its meeting on 1 October 2003

This policy was adopted by the Director, Science and Conservation, DEH

Signed by

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