



Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit

For an individual person to soft release rehabilitated wildlife

FACT SHEET AND APPLICATION FORM

If you would like to facilitate the soft release (assisted release) of rehabilitated native wildlife back into the wild you will need to complete the attached application. Please read this fact sheet before completing and submitting your application.

What does the permit authorise?

A Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit (WRP) - Soft Release is issued by the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) (or their delegate) under Regulation 48 of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021* pursuant to Regulation 42. The permit may authorise one or more of the following actions:

- short term possession of native wildlife;
- releasing rehabilitated wildlife from captivity; and
- taking, possessing or disposing of products of *partly protected wildlife* (deceased wildlife) for the purpose of feeding the possessed rehabilitated wildlife.

Threatened species

If you are applying to soft release *threatened species* scheduled under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, a Listed Taxon Permit (LTP) will automatically be issued with your WRP in accordance with the *Threatened Species Protection Regulations 2016*.

What is soft (assisted) release?

A soft release is a method of releasing rehabilitated wildlife, whereby they are held for a short period in an enclosure to adjust to their surroundings, before the gate is opened and the animal can freely come and go. It can also involve providing a natural diet and access to water for a short period of time.

In contrast, unassisted release involves letting the animal go into the wild (without first holding it in an enclosure) and not providing, or providing very limited, food and water. If

the habitat is suitable the animal will be able to locate its natural diet and a water source. Both methods of release are acceptable.

Is my property suitable for soft release?

When considering soft release for rehabilitated native wildlife there are some things to consider:

- Are there roads nearby and do they have a high volume of traffic?
- Do you have the required space to set aside for a pre-release enclosure?
- Have you investigated the cost of constructing a pre-release enclosure?
- Do your neighbours hold property protection permits? (this means your neighbour may be authorised to take the species you are releasing)

Which species can I release on my property?

The native wildlife you take for soft release should have originated from the local area. This helps restrict the spread of disease, parasites and negative impacts to the genetics of the local populations.

You will only be permitted to release species on your property that are already currently there.

To find out which species you already have on your property you will need to see them or find evidence that they are there. Examples of ways to do this are:

- Spotlighting at night-time;
- Conducting a species search on the [Natural Values Atlas](#);
- Setting motion detector cameras which capture images;
- Using binoculars to spot bird species;
- Examining the property for evidence, e.g. active wombat burrows or scats.

For more information, please refer to the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#) (the Guidelines).

What does this permit not authorise?

This WRP does not authorise the possession of native wildlife undergoing rehabilitation. The animal must be rehabilitated (including being weaned) and healthy before it goes into a soft release enclosure.

A WRP does not authorise the display of wildlife undergoing rehabilitation; permanent possession of wildlife; or the transfer of wildlife to a wildlife park or zoo. If you think an animal is unfit for release, please contact the Department.

A WRP does not authorise the release of rehabilitated wildlife into an area that is fenced, preventing the wildlife from dispersing into the wild.

This permit does not authorise rewilding activities or the translocation of fauna outside of their natural range.

Anyone wanting to rehabilitate wildlife in Tasmania must complete the [Wildlife Rehabilitation for Partly Protected Wildlife Application](#) or if you are applying to rehabilitated protected wildlife you must complete a [Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit application](#). Please contact the Department for more information about becoming a wildlife rehabilitator.

If you only wish to assist with soft release of wildlife, you do not need to apply to be a rehabilitator.

What are the key tasks and responsibilities?

- Building working relationships with local wildlife rehabilitators to understand the needs of wildlife in the pre-release phase;
- Only releasing rehabilitated wildlife that were found injured or orphaned in your



local area (genetic and disease considerations)

- Sourcing and providing a natural diet, suitable for the species;
- Building pre-release enclosures that meet the minimum requirements in the Guidelines;
- Providing access to fresh water and shelter;
- Monitoring the wildlife for signs of injury or illness;
- Allowing the wildlife to maintain natural behaviours and avoiding habituation to humans;
- Reporting any health concerns to the wildlife rehabilitator who rehabilitated the animal, or to a veterinarian; and
- Facilitating veterinary treatment where necessary.

What is NRE Tas' role in native wildlife rehabilitation?

The Department regulates the rehabilitation activities of the wildlife rehabilitation sector and assists with coordinating native wildlife placements with wildlife rehabilitators on behalf of the sector.

Whilst wildlife rehabilitation is voluntarily undertaken by community members, wildlife rehabilitators are not considered a volunteer of the Department.

You are encouraged to join a group or organisation that can provide insurance for wildlife rehabilitation activities.

Who can apply?

Any individual person wishing to provide suitable enclosures on their land for the soft release of rehabilitated native wildlife.

How do I apply?

Complete and return the attached application form (not this fact sheet).

Cost of permit

There is no fee for this type of permit.

Useful information

- Laws can be accessed from [Home - Tasmanian Legislation Online](#)
- Link to website and the Guidelines [Wildlife Rehabilitation in Tasmania | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#)
- Wildlife Health Australia [National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines](#)

What will I receive?

Successful applicants will receive:

- A WRP in their name; including return and record keeping requirements; and
- An LTP, when applicable.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive an explanation as to why their application was unsuccessful.

What must I do once I receive my permit?

You must read and comply with the permit conditions and the Guidelines.

At the expiry of the permit, complete and provide your permit return to the Department. A new permit will not be granted if return documents for previous permits have not been received.

You must only accept native wildlife for release that are authorised under your permit. You must not accept more animals than you can provide appropriate care for.



Permit reissue

If you wish to continue soft release activities, you must comply with your existing permit requirements and complete and return the attached form each year.

If you intend to conduct activities beyond the expiry it is your responsibility to ensure you submit your completed application, allowing time for processing, in order to continue operating lawfully.

Allow at least four weeks for the processing of applications.

Duration of permit

The WRP commences from 1st July each year and ends on the 30th June the following

year. If you apply part way through the year you will receive a permit for the remainder of the current year and will need to apply for a new permit before it expires on 30 June.

Personal information

Information on the collection, maintenance, use and disclosure of personal information can be found on our website.

[Personal Information Protection Policy | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#)



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Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania



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Return this form to:

Wildlife Services, GPO Box 44, Hobart TAS 7001

Phone (03) 6165 4305, Email Wildlife.Services@nre.tas.gov.au

Application instructions:

All fields marked with an asterisk* are mandatory and require a response, noting you may be prompted to fill out other sections based on your responses. Incomplete applications are unable to be processed by the Department and will be returned to you without further processing. A new complete application will need to be submitted. Please allow at least 20 business days for processing of applications. Where an application fee is required, please refer to [Licence and Permit Fees | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#) for payment details. The Secretary may request further information or evidence in relation to this application. If you fail to provide the required information within 10 business days, your application will be refused and you will need to submit a new application. Please contact the Department at the earliest opportunity to discuss the potential for an extension, noting that your request may not be accepted. It is an offence to provide false and misleading information at any stage during the application process.

Please note:

Applications will not be processed if you have any outstanding returns and/or records required from a previous permit or licence which have not been received by the Department.

1. Personal information

Given names:* _____

Family name:* _____

Residential address:* _____

_____ Post code: _____

Postal address: _____

_____ Post code: _____

Telephone:* _____ Email: _____

2. Preferred way of receiving permit:*

Post Email – *encouraged as an efficient and sustainable approach to receive timely communications.*

3. Intended way of completing returns:*

Hardcopy Electronic Excel spreadsheet - *please ensure you have included an email address. An electronic version of the Rehabilitation Return Form will be dispatched with your permit).*

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4. Please specify the address where the native wildlife listed on this permit application will be held*

Held address: _____
_____ Post code: _____

5. I have previously held a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit

Yes - provide number _____ No - go to question 7

6. Permit returns *If you have previously held a permit that required the completion of a return, all previously required returns must have been received by the Department prior to the consideration and issuance of further permits.*

I have already provided my returns to the Department.

I have attached my returns for my previously held permit to this application.

7. Please list all native species you wish to possess for the purposes of soft release*

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8. Facility (enclosure) information*

Rehabilitators intending to soft release native wildlife must have suitable enclosures. Please list details of enclosures that you intend to use for the soft release of native wildlife. Please refer to the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#) for appropriate pre-release (soft release) enclosure size and design. The Guidelines also outline the number of individual animals that can be kept in these enclosures.

Species	Enclosure Dimensions (L x W X H)

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9. Release property information*

Please indicate the size of your release property. Please indicate whether you are aware of existing populations of your requested species in this area and whether the habitat is suitable for the species requested.

10. List any other relevant information to assist with assessment of your application (For example, training courses or experience).

11. Acknowledgements*

- I have read and understood Wildlife Network Tasmania's [Code of Conduct](#)
- I have read and understood the Department of Natural Resources and Environment's [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#)
- My pre-release (soft release) enclosures meet the minimum requirements laid out in the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#) for the species that I will release.

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12. Declarations and important information to read before applying for a permit

Please indicate whether you have been convicted of a 'Relevant Offence' within the period of 5 years immediately preceding the day on which this application is made.*

A list of relevant offences determined by the Secretary for the purposes of the definition of relevant offence in Regulation 3(1) of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021 can be found at <https://nre.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/forms-permits-and-fees/relevant-offences>. Alternatively, a copy of what constitutes a relevant offence can be posted to you by using the contact details found elsewhere on this form.

- I HAVE been convicted of a Relevant Offence and I have attached written details
- I have NOT been convicted of a Relevant Offence

Please note that when making this application, it is an offence to provide information that you know is false or misleading, or to mislead the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania by omitting relevant information that you know you should provide. If you have any doubts about whether or not you should provide certain information you should contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania using the contact details elsewhere on this form or seek independent legal advice.

I, the Applicant, hereby apply for a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit to release wildlife, inclusive of a permit for dealing with listed taxa if the wildlife I am authorised to release are threatened species scheduled under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. I declare that:

- the information provided in this application is true and correct; and
- I consent to the collection and use of my personal information in accordance with the Department's Personal Information Protection Policy.

Applicant's signature:* _____ Date:* _____