



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 of rehabilitated wildlife to 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 under Regulation 48 of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021* pursuant to Regulation 42. This permit authorises the short-term possession of rehabilitated wildlife for the purpose of release to the wild. Depending on the wildlife species specified under this permit, this permit may also authorise the take of roadkill of partly protected products of wildlife for the purpose of feeding to the possessed rehabilitated wildlife.

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, 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 and there is no scientific evidence to suggest one method over the other.

Is my property suitable for assisted release?

When considering assisted release for rehabilitated 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?

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;
- Setting motion detector cameras which capture images;
- Using binoculars to spot bird species;
- Examining the property for evidence, e.g. active wombat burrows.

For more information, please refer to the Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation.

What doesn't this permit authorise?

This permit does not authorise the possession of injured or orphaned 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 or the transfer to a wildlife park or zoo – if you think an animal is unfit for release, please contact the Department.

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)
- Providing a natural diet, suitable for the species;
- 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 concerns to the wildlife rehabilitator who rehabilitated the animal, or to a veterinarian; and
- Facilitating veterinary treatment where necessary,

Am I required to be a registered Wildlife Rehabilitator or hold a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit?

You are not required to be a registered wildlife rehabilitator or to possess a WRP to rehabilitate wildlife to hold a soft release permit.

Anyone wanting to rehabilitate wildlife in Tasmania must complete the [Wildlife Rehabilitation Registration Form](#).

Please contact the Department for more information about becoming a registered wildlife rehabilitator.

How is the network coordinated?

The Department is responsible for registering and permitting rehabilitators. The Department works collaboratively with Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Services Inc. (WIRES) and wildlife sanctuaries such as Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary to place injured and orphaned wildlife with rehabilitators.

Consent to release personal information

The Department distributes a Wildlife Rehabilitator Contact List to wildlife rehabilitators to facilitate networking and mentoring support. Details shared on this list are your name, locality, phone number and rehabilitation experience. These details have been given in good faith for use by wildlife rehabilitators only and must not be distributed to anyone else.

If you choose to share your details on this contact list you may be contacted by rehabilitators wishing to find a place to release animals in their care.

If you do not wish to have your details shared on this contact list the Department can facilitate contact between yourself and rehabilitators wishing to find a soft release location.

Who can apply?

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



How do I apply?

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

There is not a 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's

[National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines](#)

What will I receive?

Successful applicants will receive a permit in their name and return and record documentation.

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

What do I have to do once I receive my permit?

Comply with the permit conditions.

Complete and provide to the Department all return and record requirements.

A reissue of your permit will not be granted if return details for

any previous permits have not been received.

Only accept wildlife for release that are authorised under your permit.

Permit Reissue

If you wish to continue rehabilitation activities under a WRP, the enclosed application form must be completed and returned each year.

If you are granted a permit/licence and intend to conduct activities requiring the authority of a permit or licence beyond its expiry, such as the possession of wildlife, it is your responsibility to ensure you submit a complete application within an appropriate timeframe for processing in order to continue operating lawfully.

Duration of Permit

The WRP commences on the 1 June each year and ends on the 31 May of the following year.

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



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

3. Intended way of completing returns:*

Hardcopy Electronic Spreadsheet

Please ensure you have included an email address. An electronic version of the Rehabilitation Return Form (in excel format) will be dispatched with your permit.

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4. Please specify the address where the 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 6)

6. Please list all species you wish to possess for the purposes of release*

7. Facility (enclosure) Information

Rehabilitators intending to soft release wildlife must have enclosures. Please list details of enclosures that you intend to use for the soft release of 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)	Photo Attached?
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

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8. 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.*

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

10. 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.

11. Consent to release personal information

Do you consent to having your details shared with registered wildlife rehabilitators?*

- Yes No

12. 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](#)

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13. 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/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, 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:* ____/____/20____