



Wildlife Rehabilitation for Partly Protected Wildlife

FACT SHEET AND APPLICATION FORM

Some native wildlife in Tasmania do not require a permit to rehabilitate. The purpose of this form is to compile a centralised list of community members who would like to rehabilitate native wildlife that do not require a permit. Wildlife rehabilitators on this list need to undertake basic training, have a mentor, and will receive notifications for *partly protected wildlife* needing rehabilitation. The purpose of undertaking this activity is to rehabilitate native wildlife for release back into the wild. Please read this fact sheet before completing and submitting your application.

What are partly protected wildlife?

Partly protected wildlife are species listed under schedule 8 of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021*. You need to complete this form if you would like to rehabilitate the following *partly protected* species only, for release back to the wild:

- Bennett's wallaby
- Rufous wallaby (Tasmanian pademelon)
- Brushtail possum
- Chestnut teal
- Grey teal
- Pacific black duck
- Australian wood duck (maned duck)
- Australian shelduck (mountain duck)
- Brown quail

What are the benefits of being on the list?

The benefits of adding your details to the list are:

- inclusion in a pool of people statewide who are recognised as being able to rehabilitate species that do not require a permit;
- receive notifications via an app called xMatters for wildlife that are in need of rehabilitation;
- access to mentoring and support; and
- receiving updates and relevant information regarding wildlife rehabilitation, compliance, legislation and biosecurity.

Inclusion on this list is an accepted pathway into applying for a [Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit](#).

What are the key rehabilitation tasks?

The expectations for wildlife rehabilitation in Tasmania are set out in the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#) (the Guidelines).

Although wildlife rehabilitators for *partly protected wildlife* do not hold a Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit (WRP), there are still obligations under the [Animal Welfare Act 1993](#).

Wildlife rehabilitators use techniques designed to mimic natural processes and behaviours to prepare an animal to be released back into their native habitats.

Key tasks to get you started

- building indoor and/or outdoor enclosures that mimic the natural environment;
- acquiring equipment and supplies;
- sourcing native food or food and milk replacement formula specifically manufactured for native wildlife in care;
- ensuring you have the appropriate skills and equipment before taking on an animal;
- seeking advice from a mentor; and
- applying for permits when necessary.

You will be responsible for

- undertaking basic training and community education;
- aligning with the Guidelines;
- maintaining enclosures;
- cleaning and sanitising enclosures and equipment;
- covering the cost of, and maintenance of equipment and enclosures;
- bottle feeding and toileting (several times a day for marsupials);
- covering the cost of food and veterinary care;
- arranging veterinary care as needed;
- administering veterinary prescribed treatments;

- dedicating enough time to provide sufficient care for each stage of the animal's development;
- arranging suitable release sites;
- euthanising, or arranging euthanasia of native wildlife when required;
- record-keeping;
- working with your mentor to get the best outcomes for the animal;
- being aware of biosecurity issues and limiting the risks of disease transmission;
- practicing self-sustainability so that you are in the best position to care for native wildlife; and
- not exceeding your capacity to care (taking on more animals than you can provide appropriate care for).

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.

What training is available?

Wildlife Network Tasmania offers training for new and experienced wildlife rehabilitators.

Visit the [Wildlife Network Tasmania website](#) for more information.

The [Introduction to Tasmania Mammals Course](#) is highly recommended.



What animals can I rehabilitate if I am new to wildlife rehabilitation?

New wildlife rehabilitators in Tasmania are referred to as tier 1 'novice' wildlife rehabilitators. Rehabilitators wishing to rehabilitate mammals, can begin with fully furred brushtail possums, Bennett's wallabies or rufous wallabies.

To rehabilitate birds or reptiles you will need to apply for a [Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit \(WRP\)](#).

For birds, tier 1 rehabilitators begin with a range of different species depending on their interests. For example, those interested in honeyeaters would begin with fledgling noisy miners and wattle birds. Please refer to the Guidelines for a list of tier 1 bird species.

For reptiles, novice rehabilitators usually begin with blue-tongue lizards and other skinks.

Wildlife rehabilitation skills pathway

Wildlife rehabilitation in Tasmania is different from other states in Australia. In Tasmania, wildlife rehabilitators are allocated a tier level based on their demonstrated capacity to care for native wildlife with differing levels of rehabilitation complexity. This pathway is in the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation \(2021\)](#) (the Guidelines).

The aims of this pathway are to:

- support rehabilitators to build up their skills and confidence over time;
- start new rehabilitators with the least complex native wildlife species and life stages;
- improve the retention of wildlife rehabilitators, by providing them with native wildlife to rehabilitate that are suitable for their skill level, therefore minimising negative experiences;
- have a consistent sector-wide approach to rehabilitating native wildlife in Tasmania; and

- support better animal welfare outcomes for Tasmania's native wildlife.

The Guidelines recommend training and a minimum number of animals that should be rehabilitated before a rehabilitator may apply for a new tier level. Depending on the rehabilitator's circumstances, it may take longer for some than others to reach the required number of rehabilitated animals.

What happens if I want to move to the next tier?

The WRP application form can be used to submit a tier review application. This must include a mentor recommendation.

NRE Tas will consider your training, your mentor recommendation and the number of native wildlife you have rehabilitated and the skills and experience you have gained from this.

Throughout the duration of your permit, if you are approved to move to the next tier NRE Tas will automatically vary your existing WRP and authorise you to commence rehabilitating native wildlife at your new tier.

What is the mentoring system in Tasmania?

Wildlife rehabilitation in Tasmania relies on a mentoring system. Experienced rehabilitators (usually at the tier 4 and 5 levels) provide support to less experienced rehabilitators to help them understand the complex needs of Tasmanian native wildlife. Rehabilitators with mentor support have greater success. If you do not have a mentor already, NRE Tas can assist with locating one.

What is xMatters?

Notifications for native wildlife needing rehabilitation are sent out through a web-based platform called xMatters. This is run by Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Services Inc. (WIREs).

If you give consent, NRE Tas provides your contact information and rehabilitation



experience to WIRES which enables you to get set up on the xMatters platform.

Bonorong coordinates a network of volunteer wildlife rescuers who can, at times, assist with transportation of native wildlife to wildlife rehabilitators.

NRE Tas provides assistance to Bonorong and WIRES regarding animal welfare matters.

Consent to release personal information

NRE Tas assists Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary and WIRES with the placement of native wildlife requiring rehabilitation.

If you choose to share your details with vet clinics and wildlife sanctuaries, wildlife rescuers may be able to assist with transporting wildlife requiring rehabilitation to you. Sharing your information will enable continuity of care for wildlife. Details shared may include your name, suburb, phone number and rehabilitation experience.

If you choose to share your details with WIRES, you will receive notifications on the xMatters platform when an animal requires rehabilitation. Details shared include your name, personal address, phone number, email address and rehabilitation experience.

NRE Tas also distributes a *wildlife rehabilitator contact list* to other wildlife rehabilitators, on an ad hoc basis, to facilitate networking and mentoring support. Details shared on this list are your name, locality, phone number and rehabilitation experience. Your personal address or email is not shared.

Who can apply?

Any individual person wishing to rehabilitate and release *partly protected wildlife*.

How do I apply?

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

Cost of application

There is no fee for this application.

Important information to read

Before completing this form you are encouraged to read the following information available through the NRE Tas website:

- [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation \(2021\)](#);
- [Wildlife Network Tasmania's Code of Conduct](#);
- Wildlife Health Australia's [National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines](#); and
- [permit requirements](#) for rehabilitation and display of wildlife to the public.

What will I receive?

Once your application form has been received and processed you will be contacted by NRE Tas.

You will also receive a copy of the *wildlife rehabilitator contact list*.

If you do not have an xMatters account and provide your consent to share your details with WIRES, an xMatters account will be created for you. Your login details will be sent to you by WIRES.

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 \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#)

Personal information

Information on the collection, maintenance, use and disclosure of personal information can be found on our website. [NRE Tas Personal Information Protection Policy | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania](#)



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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.

1. Personal information

Given names:* _____

Family name:* _____

Residential address:* _____

_____ Post code: _____

Postal address: _____

_____ Post code: _____

Telephone:* _____ Email:* _____

2. Preferred way of receiving communication*

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

3. Please specify the address where the native wildlife is to be rehabilitated:*

Held address:* _____

_____ Post code: _____

4. Wildlife rehabilitation in Tasmania relies on a mentoring system. Do you have a mentor?*

No - *We can provide you assistance to connect with an appropriate wildlife mentor.*

Yes – *Please provide mentor's name:* _____

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5. Experience and knowledge of native wildlife rehabilitation*

- a) Please detail any experience you have had in the handling and/or rehabilitation of native wildlife. Please note species types, reason for rehabilitation, development stage, success rate, when and where you obtained any experience. *Supporting documentation, if any, should be attached to this application.*

- b) Please list any relevant training courses you have completed in the rehabilitation of native wildlife and/or if you have already been working with a mentor. Please note, training is strongly recommended prior to taking on native wildlife for rehabilitation. *Supporting documentation, if any, should be attached to this application.*

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6. Facility (enclosure) information*

a) Yes, I have enclosures that meet the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#) for the species that I am applying to rehabilitate*

No, I do not currently have enclosures. *Please note that xMatters notifications will not be switched on until your enclosures are completed and meet the minimum requirements.*

b) Rehabilitators must have suitable facilities before they can rehabilitate native wildlife such as outside enclosures for possums and wallabies. If you have any existing enclosures, please list them below.* Recommendations on appropriate enclosure size and design can be found in the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#).

	Approximate size
Bird aviaries: <input type="checkbox"/> How many?	
Wallaby enclosures: <input type="checkbox"/> How many?	
Possum aviaries: <input type="checkbox"/> How many?	

c) Please provide details of any other indoor and outdoor facilities.

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7. Release property information*

Do you have access to a property suitable for release

- Yes, I have access to a release property (*Please provide release property details below*).
- No, I do not have access to a release property

8. Consent to release personal information* *Please see fact sheet for further information.*

Do you consent to having your details shared with vet clinics and wildlife sanctuaries for the purpose of wildlife care coordination and transport?*

- Yes No

Do you consent to having your details shared with WIRES, including xMatters, for the purpose of wildlife coordination including creating and maintaining your xMatters profile,?*

- Yes No

Do you consent to sharing your personal details for the purpose of being included on the Department's *wildlife rehabilitator contact list*?*

- Yes No

9. 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 Tasmania's [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#)
- My enclosures meet the minimum requirements laid out in the [Best Practice Guidelines for Wildlife Rehabilitation](#) for the species that I will rehabilitate and release.

10. Please provide details if you have been convicted of a 'Relevant Offence'.*

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

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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.

11. Declaration

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:* _____