

Native Animal Trust Fund Bird Rehabilitation Policy



The following Birds Rehabilitation Policy refers to the rehabilitation of all birds, including water birds, sea birds, general birds and raptors and must be read in conjunction with the

- NPWS Rehabilitation Policy
- NATF General Licence Conditions and
- NATF Rescuers' and Rehabilitators' Policy (revise 2004)

NATF bird rehabilitators are authorised to hold, for the purpose of rehabilitation, sick, injured or orphaned native birds only and return all successfully rehabilitated or hand raised birds to a suitable natural environment. Bird rehabilitators must demonstrate a commitment to legal and ethically responsible rehabilitation of all birds.



The minimum requirements for the care and rehabilitation of all birds include

1. Completion of the *Introduction to the NATF & Basic Rescue* workshops
2. Completion of a NATF approved *Bird Rehabilitation* training course **or** equivalent one-on-one approved training.
3. Be competent in the techniques of wild capture, transport, husbandry and housing.
4. For Birds of Prey, to have completed an approved Raptor Rehabilitation training **and** meet the NPWS guidelines for Raptor Rehabilitation.

Bird Rehabilitators' responsibilities include:

1. *Providing optimum levels of care and animal welfare*

- a. Ensure no bird suffers undue pain or distress.
- b. Ensure appropriate nutrition, including access to natural foods.
- c. Provide appropriate facilities that
 - i. Keep the bird safe, minimise stress and prevent further injury e.g. feather damage.
 - ii. Are well maintained, clean and hygienic.
 - iii. Provide the bird with an opportunity to express a range of natural behaviours.
 - iv. Are not used to house pet birds.
- d. Ensure birds are not held for an extended period of time that may compromise their successful rehabilitation.
- e. In times of high demand, in order to maintain the optimum level of animal welfare, rehabilitation should be prioritised with preference given to threatened species and short term cases. Birds that require lengthy or costly treatment or where the outcome is uncertain should not be considered a priority for rehabilitation.

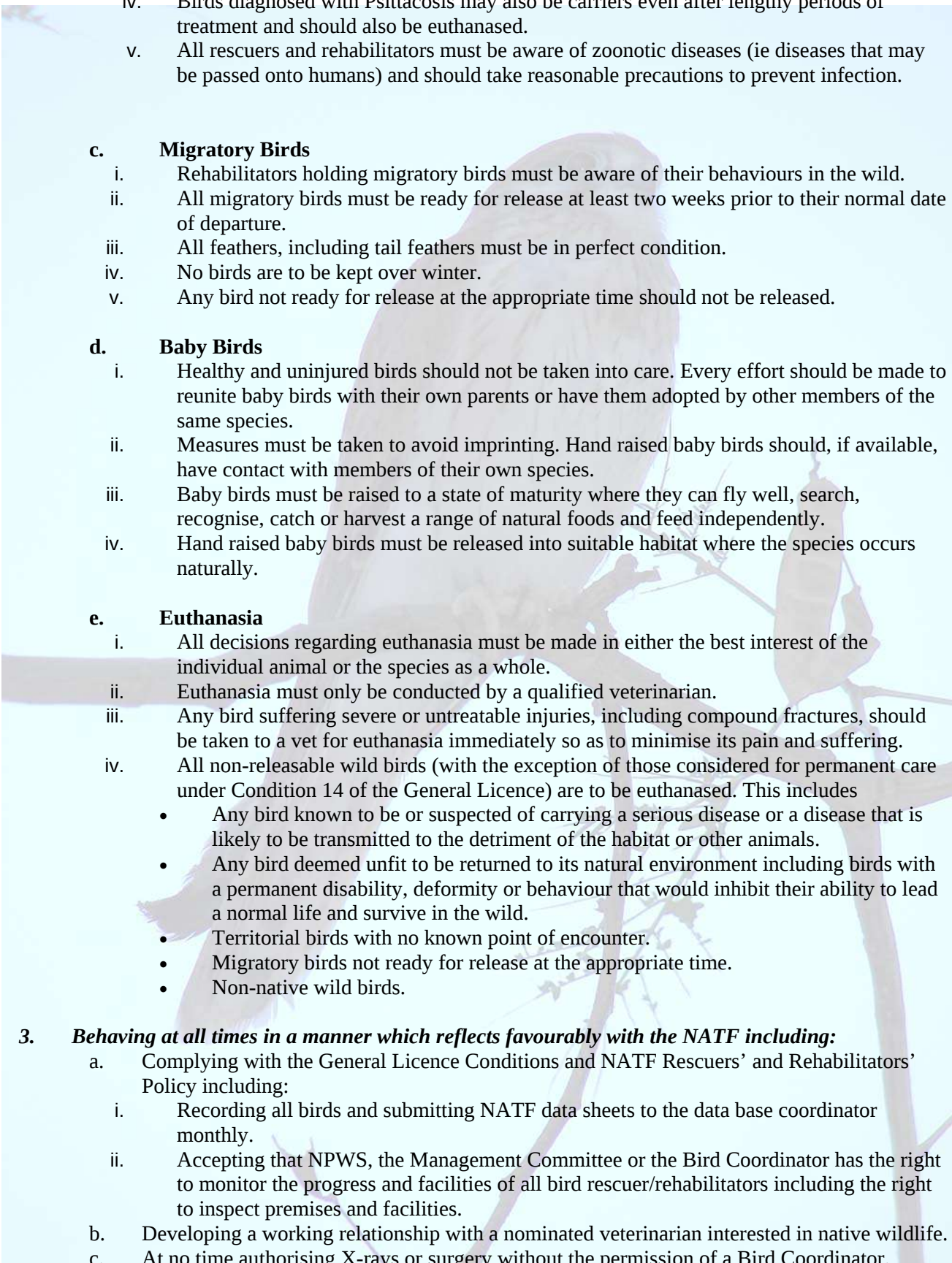
2. *Providing for an optimum level of survival in the wild*

a. Release

- i. All rehabilitated birds will be released to a suitable natural environment at or near the locality of the original encounter.
- ii. All birds should be released as soon as appropriate and not kept in care longer than necessary.
- iii. Only birds deemed fit are to be returned to their natural environment. No bird with any injury or deformity that would inhibit its ability to survive should be released.
- iv. Territorial birds with no known point of encounter should not be released.

b. Diseased Birds

- i. Sick birds must be kept in quarantine.
- ii. Any bird reasonably suspected of carrying a serious disease which may be transmitted to humans must not be released.
- iii. Birds diagnosed with Psittacine Beak & Feather Disease must be euthanased.

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- iv. Birds diagnosed with Psittacosis may also be carriers even after lengthy periods of treatment and should also be euthanased.
 - v. All rescuers and rehabilitators must be aware of zoonotic diseases (ie diseases that may be passed onto humans) and should take reasonable precautions to prevent infection.

c. Migratory Birds

- i. Rehabilitators holding migratory birds must be aware of their behaviours in the wild.
- ii. All migratory birds must be ready for release at least two weeks prior to their normal date of departure.
- iii. All feathers, including tail feathers must be in perfect condition.
- iv. No birds are to be kept over winter.
- v. Any bird not ready for release at the appropriate time should not be released.

d. Baby Birds

- i. Healthy and uninjured birds should not be taken into care. Every effort should be made to reunite baby birds with their own parents or have them adopted by other members of the same species.
- ii. Measures must be taken to avoid imprinting. Hand raised baby birds should, if available, have contact with members of their own species.
- iii. Baby birds must be raised to a state of maturity where they can fly well, search, recognise, catch or harvest a range of natural foods and feed independently.
- iv. Hand raised baby birds must be released into suitable habitat where the species occurs naturally.

e. Euthanasia

- i. All decisions regarding euthanasia must be made in either the best interest of the individual animal or the species as a whole.
- ii. Euthanasia must only be conducted by a qualified veterinarian.
- iii. Any bird suffering severe or untreatable injuries, including compound fractures, should be taken to a vet for euthanasia immediately so as to minimise its pain and suffering.
- iv. All non-releasable wild birds (with the exception of those considered for permanent care under Condition 14 of the General Licence) are to be euthanased. This includes
 - Any bird known to be or suspected of carrying a serious disease or a disease that is likely to be transmitted to the detriment of the habitat or other animals.
 - Any bird deemed unfit to be returned to its natural environment including birds with a permanent disability, deformity or behaviour that would inhibit their ability to lead a normal life and survive in the wild.
 - Territorial birds with no known point of encounter.
 - Migratory birds not ready for release at the appropriate time.
 - Non-native wild birds.

3. Behaving at all times in a manner which reflects favourably with the NATF including:

- a. Complying with the General Licence Conditions and NATF Rescuers' and Rehabilitators' Policy including:
 - i. Recording all birds and submitting NATF data sheets to the data base coordinator monthly.
 - ii. Accepting that NPWS, the Management Committee or the Bird Coordinator has the right to monitor the progress and facilities of all bird rescuer/rehabilitators including the right to inspect premises and facilities.
- b. Developing a working relationship with a nominated veterinarian interested in native wildlife.
- c. At no time authorising X-rays or surgery without the permission of a Bird Coordinator.
- d. Achieving a high standard of care by gaining knowledge and understanding of birds in the wild.
- e. Access ongoing training opportunities to keep abreast of current procedures and rehabilitation methods.
- f. Treating non-native birds humanely but not raising or rehabilitating or releasing them to the wild.

All NATF members must put the safety of themselves and other people first.



FACILITIES INSPECTION CHECKLIST (BIRDS)

The following is a guide to equipment & facilities that will assist in providing optimum levels of care and support for animal welfare while in rehabilitation by

- Keeping the fauna safe, minimise stress and prevent further injury
- Ensuring facilities & equipment are well maintained, clean and hygienic.
- Providing fauna with an opportunity to express a range of natural behaviours.
- Ensuring they are separated from household pets.

It can be used as a checklist and completed by the member prior to a facilities inspection.

A. General Rehabilitation: Emergency Care & Orphaned Young			
HEAT SOURCE Quantity & Type eg Heat pad Optimum requirement: Heat pad with variable heat levels; Incubator;	☐ YES ☐ NO	BASKETS or BOXES Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO
DIGITAL SCALES	☐ YES ☐ NO	SMALL CAGES (up to cocky cage size) Number: Type:	☐ YES ☐ NO
FIRST AID EQUIPMENT Vetwrap; antiseptic,	☐ YES ☐ NO		
REHYDRATION Equipment (Lecatade, Polyaid; syringe/tubes etc).	☐ YES ☐ NO	TOWELS	☐ YES ☐ NO
FOOD ➤ Containers ➤ Insectivore	☐ YES ☐ NO	STERILISATION EQUIPMENT & Facilities Eg Milton; Bleach, Nappisan	☐ YES ☐ NO

Location suitable for Emergency Care (Quiet, warm, shade....	☐ YES ☐ NO
Maximum Wildlife Capacity for Emergency Care	

OUTDOOR REHABILITATION FACILITIES

B: Facilities for long-term rehabilitation or final stage for orphaned young:		
	SMALL AVIARY	FLIGHT AVIARY
Number		
Maximum Wildlife Capacity		
Species specific capacity (eg raptors, parrots, small birds)		
<i>To keep the fauna safe, minimise stress and prevent further injury consider</i>		
Weathering: Protection from rain & heat;		
Water availability		
Separated from family pets		
Condition (eg well maintained, clean and hygienic)		
Security		
Vermin-proof		
<i>To provide fauna with an opportunity to express a range of natural behaviours consider</i>		
Flight availability		
Range of perches sizes & heights		
Accessibility to natural foods		
Weathering Access to rain & wind		
Floor Substrate		
Other species specific requirements		

Suggested Areas for

Improvement: _____



FACILITIES INSPECTION REPORT

(To be completed by person conducting the Facilities Inspection)

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

I agree that the equipment & facilities held by _____ will provide optimum levels of care and support animal welfare while in rehabilitation by

- Keeping the fauna safe, minimise stress and prevent further injury including ensuring they are separated from household pets;
- Ensuring facilities & equipment are well maintained, clean and hygienic and
- Providing fauna with an opportunity to express a range of natural behaviours.

1. TRAINING

Course	Date Completed	Training Update Required (Year)

2. DATA

Data submitted monthly	☐ YES ☐ NO
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3. SPECIES OF FAUNA APPROVED:

4. LEVEL OF AUTHORISATION APPROVED:

- ☐ Emergency Care
- ☐ Orphaned Young:
 - ☐ Nestling, Fledgling & Branchers
- ☐ General Bird Rehabilitation
- ☐ Species Specific: _____

Person Completing Inspection: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

(Copy to be sent to member; Original to be held by:)

Review Date if required (to be set by the member in consultation with person completing inspection) _____

Observation, Assessment & Treatment Plan

Species: _____ Date found _____ Location _____

Weight: _____ gms (10%= _____) Age _____ Reason for injury _____

Fluids	6am	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Assessment	Observation
Type:																Eyes	
Quantity:																	
Meds	Mls/gms:															Ears	
Wormed																Mouth	
																Beak/teeth	
																Nose	
Observations																Head	
																Wings	
																Legs	
Fluids	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Abdomen	
Type:																Chest	
Quantity:																	
Meds	Mls/gms:															Condition	
Wormed																Vent	
																Breathing	
																Faeces	
Observations																Feathers	

Observation & Assessment

Species: _____ Date found _____ Location _____

Weight: _____ gms (10%= _____) Age _____ Reason for injury _____

Fluids	6am	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Assessment	Observation
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Type:																Chest	
Quantity:																	
Meds	Mls/gms:															Condition	
																Vent	
																Breathing	
																Faeces	
Observations																Feathers	

Progress:

Date:	Food:	Quantity	Other observations

Progress:

Date:	Food:	Quantity	Other observations