

# Macropod Policy

**NATF macropod rehabilitators are authorised to hold, for the purpose of rehabilitation, sick, injured or orphaned joey macropods and return all successfully rehabilitated or hand raised joey macropods to a suitable natural environment. Macropod rehabilitators must demonstrate a commitment to legal and ethically responsible rehabilitation of all macropods.**

The following Macropod Rehabilitation Policy refers to the rehabilitation of all macropods, and must be read in conjunction with the

- NPWS Rehabilitation Policy
- NATF General Licence Conditions and
- NATF Rescuers' and Rehabilitators' Policy (revise 2004).
- The Macropology Handbook 'A Guide to Raising and Releasing Kangaroos and Wallabies' by Cheryl Dooley, June 2004. Website <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dooleydy/macropology>.
- Species Coordinators responsibilities

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

1. Being a current financial members of the NATF.
2. Completing the *Introduction to the NATF & Basic Rescue* workshops
3. Completing a NATF approved *Macropod Rehabilitation* training course **or** equivalent one-on-one approved training.
4. Being competent in the techniques of wild capture, transport, husbandry and housing.
5. Being approved to rescue, hold or rehabilitate macropods.
6. Having equipment and facilities approved to rehabilitate macropods.

## **Macropod Rehabilitators' responsibilities include:**

1. ***Providing optimum levels of care and animal welfare***
  - a. Ensure no macropod suffers undue pain or distress.
  - b. Ensure appropriate nutrition, including access to natural foods.
  - c. Provide appropriate facilities that
    - i. Keep the macropod safe, minimise stress and prevent further injury.
    - ii. Are well maintained, clean and hygienic.
    - iii. Provide the macropod with an opportunity to express a range of natural behaviours.
  - d. Ensure macropods are not held for an extended period of time that may compromise their successful rehabilitation.
  - e. Advise the co-ordinator of any injured macropod requiring rehabilitation as soon as possible.
  - f. Provide protection from domestic pets and other predators;
  - g. No joey to be taken on holidays or to a workplace or used as an item for 'show and tell'.
2. ***Providing for an optimum level for survival in the wild*** by developing an individual macropod rehabilitation plan, in consultation with the coordinator.

## **Rescue:**

- a. Assistance of an experienced rescuer should be called for difficult rescues.

**Assessing Viability** –A joey will generally be considered viable when eyes are open and ears up.

By species this generally means...

- ♦ Pademelons over 100 gms
- ♦ Wallabies over 200 gms
- ♦ Wallaroos over 400 gms
- ♦ Eastern Grey Kangaroos over 500 gms.

## **Rehabilitation:**

- a. Rehabilitation placement is determined by the coordinator with buddying a first priority.
- b. All joey macropods to be raised with a buddy of similar age/size/species where possible.
- c. The coordinator should be advised of any changes to the joey's rehabilitation plan including:
  - i. Buddying

- ii. Transferring
- iii. Temporary changes to rehabilitation eg joey-sitting, holidays.
- iv. Release

- d. A joey should experience no more than two transfers before release.
  - i. Transfers to occur while the joey is in the pouch at pre-emerged stage if no Kindy pens are available;  
This is generally considered around
    - ♦ 1.5 kgs for Eastern Grey Kangaroos,
    - ♦ 1 kg for Wallabies,
    - ♦ 250 gms for Pademelons.
  - ii. Transfers to occur while the joey is at emerging stage if no macropod enclosures are available;  
This is generally considered around
    - ♦ 3.5kgs to 4 kgs for Eastern Grey Kangaroos,
    - ♦ 2.5 kgs for Wallabies,
    - ♦ 400 gms for Pademelons – see ‘Macropology’.

#### **Release**

- a. Release sites to be pre-determined according to the individual macropod management plan.
- b. Joey to be released with a buddy – the buddy with whom the joey has been raised
- c. Release consideration may include pen release; hard release; soft release.
- d. Final release shall occur in Spring or Autumn, subject to environmental considerations, when a joey
  - ♦ meets a combination of weight, age and fitness criteria;
  - ♦ will usually be around 18 months of age;
  - ♦ will be dehumanised – see ‘Macropology’ *Development Charts*.

#### **Euthanasia**

- a. All decisions regarding euthanasia must be made in either the best interest of the individual animal or the species as a whole.
- b. Adult Macropods with broken limbs are to be immediately humanely euthanized.
- c. Euthanasia may be conducted (shot) at the site by the police or by an approved licensed shooter. Otherwise Euthanasia must only be conducted by a qualified veterinarian.

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

Complying with the General Licence Conditions and NATF Rescuers’ and Rehabilitators’ Policy including:

- a. Recording all macropods and submitting NATF data sheets to the data base coordinator monthly.
- b. Accepting that NPWS, the Management Committee or the Macropod Coordinator has the right to monitor the progress and facilities of all macropod rescuer/rehabilitators including the right to inspect premises and facilities.
- c. Developing a working relationship with a nominated veterinarian interested in native wildlife.
- d. At no time authorising X-rays or surgery without the permission of a Macropod Coordinator.
- e. Accessing ongoing training opportunities to keep abreast of current procedures and rehabilitation methods.
- f. Ensuring NPWS regulations are enforced and species from outside the NATF area are returned & placed with a licensed rehabilitator in their area of origin.
- g. Maintaining detailed joey care and history report to accompany joey throughout its rehabilitation.

***All NATF members must put the safety of themselves and other people first. If a rescue is considered unsafe, it must be aborted or further assistance sought through the Macropod Coordinator.***