



Permanent Care Wildlife Policy & Procedures

These guidelines are to be read in conjunction with OEH & NPWS Rehabilitation of Fauna policy, 2002 (See extract Appendix A) , and NATF^{Inc} General License & Conditions (See extract Appendix B)

“Written proposals justifying the retention of animals on an individual basis, must have the written endorsement of the licensee and be submitted to the local office of the Service where it will be considered on its merits.” General License & Conditions

1. Retention of protected fauna

Background Only in exceptional circumstances will the NPWS permit a privately licensed person or a rehabilitation organisation to permanently retain an unreleasable animal in captivity. Approval may be granted only if the animal will serve as an essential companion animal to others of its species which are undergoing rehabilitation, or will be used as an acceptable resource in a licensed exhibit, or an approved educational or scientific program. Consideration will also be given to the granting of approval to retain some aviary and caged birds, reptiles and frogs. The NPWS may place limitations on the numbers of such animals which may be held and specify conditions under which they should be held. (NPWS Rehabilitation of Fauna policy (2002) Section 26)

The primary objective of Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) shall be to provide care and aid for native fauna by means of

- a) rescuing injured, orphaned, lost or distressed native fauna;
- b) providing appropriate veterinary treatment if sick or injured; and
- c) rehabilitating native fauna with the aim of returning such animals to their natural environment when they are able to fend for themselves.

On occasions, fauna held under Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) license may not be deemed releasable and consideration may be given to hold the animal in permanent care. Members must request a written approval from the Management Committee to support the application to have the fauna held in permanent care as

- 1.1 An educational or companion animal if the animal
 - 1.1.1 belongs to a species which needs to be rehabilitated in a social group and will serve as a companion under these circumstances.
 - 1.1.2 will be involved in a recognised education program that includes an information package and a schedule of at least 10 classes, training sessions or presentations per year.
- 1.2 An approved exhibition animal at an approved zoo or fauna park or wildlife hospital.
- 1.3 A breeding animal in an approved NPWS captive breeding program.
- 1.4 In the case of a non-releasable bird species that is commonly kept as a pet, the Service will consider the granting of approval for its retention in captivity as a pet.
- 1.5 In the case of an individual bird, reptile or amphibian that is originally encounter well outside of its natural range and cannot be release under condition 12 of this licence, the licensee should assume that the animal is an escaped pet, or has been inadvertently transported from its natural range, and arrange for the transfer of the animal to an appropriate animal keeping organisation where it may be passed to an appropriate person to keep it as a pet.

Animals that cannot be returned the wild, released, or retained in captivity as provided in conditions above shall be humanely euthanased.

2. Permanent Care Procedural Guidelines

2.1 Endorsement by the Management Committee

A written request to the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) Management Committee seeking endorsement for fauna to be held in permanent care will be required prior to the application being lodged with OEH by the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) Management Committee.

If the fauna is to remain on the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) license and as such, the Committee will determine where the fauna will be located.

2.1.2 NATF Members seeking endorsement by the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) Management Committee to have fauna held in permanent care for the purpose as outlined in Section 1. above, will provide to the Management Committee with

- i. The Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) ID number issued by the Fauna Data Base Officer and accompanying OEH mandatory data record for this animal.
- ii. A full treatment and care record.
- iii. A written report by the Senior Species Coordinator.
- iv. A written veterinarian report to verify the fauna is non-releasable.
- v. If applying to hold the fauna as a companion or education animal under Clause 1.1 above, include a photograph of the long term facilities available where the fauna is to be housed. Facilities must be available prior to request being submitted.
- vi. If applying to hold the fauna as an educational animal under Clause 1.1.2, include:
 - a. An outline of the education program including an information package and a schedule of at least 10 classes, training sessions or presentation per year (NPWS requirement) and
 - b. A photograph of housing whilst in transportation and/or involved in the education program.

2.1.3 The information taken into consideration by the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) Management Committee will include

- i. The Senior Species Coordinator and Veterinary reports
- ii. Status of species eg threatened species, companion animals
- iii. Age of fauna
- iv. History of rehabilitation eg time and outcome of rehabilitation
- v. Nature of injury precluding release
- vi. Intended outcome: ie reason for retention eg companion species, education animal, captive breeding program or exhibition species
- vii. Suitability of animal to be held permanently eg stress level of the fauna (Education species); Social and emotional advantage to other injured or orphaned species (companion animal)
- viii. The long-term welfare of the individual animal as captive fauna.

2.1.4 Should the Management Committee endorse the application under clause 1.1, prior to the endorsement being forwarded to NPWS the animal must be micro-chipped for identification and recorded on subsequent OEH Annual Reports

2.2 Ratification by NPWS

Endorsed applications will be forwarded by the Management Committee to NPWS for consideration.

2.2.1 NPWS Conditions

Wildlife held as companion or education animal under clause 1.1 is held under Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) License and is held under the following conditions

- i. The person will be a member of the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}).
- ii. Wildlife is used for the purpose outlined in the submission.
- iii. The Committee will determine where the fauna will be located. Change in location of individual animals must be requested in writing and endorsed by the Management Committee.

- iv. Wildlife will remain in the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) licensed area. A person holding licensed permanent care wildlife will relinquish the wildlife when leaving the area or seek approval through the Management Committee to transfer wildlife to another licensed wildlife rehabilitation group. If the new group does not accept the transfer then wildlife must be returned to the Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}).
- v. All costs associated with holding the animal will be the responsibility of the member eg food, vet treatment, facilities.
- vi. Breeding programs are not permitted by NPWS and permanent care animals must be housed accordingly.

2.2.2 *Records*

- i. All permanent care fauna held on Hunter Wildlife Rescue (NATF^{Inc}) license is to be micro-chipped and the ID number included on the OEH annual report.
- ii. Wildlife being accepted into zoos or fauna parks must provide approval number from the facility and be held with the NATF Secretary.
- iii. Copy of the Senior Species Coordinator report and Veterinary report, microchip number and endorsement by the Management Committee to be held by the NATF Secretary.

Appendix A

Dept of Environment & Climate Change

NPWS Rehabilitation of Fauna Policy (Endorsed Oct 2002) (Extract)

NPWS Rehabilitation of Fauna Policy

Retention of protected fauna

Section 26. Only in exceptional circumstances will the NPWS permit a privately licensed person or a rehabilitation organisation to permanently retain an unreleasable animal in captivity. Approval may be granted only if the animal will serve as an essential companion animal to others of its species which are undergoing rehabilitation, or will be used as an acceptable resource in a licensed exhibit, or an approved educational or scientific program. Consideration will also be given to the granting of approval to retain some aviary and caged birds, reptiles and frogs. The NPWS may place limitations on the numbers of such animals which may be held and specify conditions under which they should be held.

Section 27. Except in the case of threatened species covered by a captive breeding and translocation approval, unreleasable fauna may not be retained for the purpose of captive breeding and release of progeny to the wild.

Section 28. The NPWS will consider on its merits any application from a zoo or fauna park licensed under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act, 1986*, to recruit protected fauna which has been hand-raised or is undergoing rehabilitation, into the exhibition stock holdings of that park. Approval for the acquisition or retention of such an animal will be subject to the concurrent.

Section 29. Euthanasia of animals is a matter of concern, contention and debate in the community. As such, decisions with respect to euthanasia should be made with due consideration of all community views. Where the extent and severity of injuries or illness in an animal mean that any treatment cannot ultimately render the animal fit to return to its natural environment, then the conservation outcome will not be positive and euthanasia should be considered. Protected fauna which cannot be released or retained under the terms of this policy (see 21 to 26) should be humanely euthanased.

Threatened Species

Section 32. In some cases, it may be desirable to authorise the retention of some individual animals for educational or scientific purposes, including a translocation and captive breeding program for threatened species, in which case their progeny may be released in accordance with the approval.

Appendix B

NATF GENERAL LICENSE & CONDITIONS (extract)

3. Fauna that cannot be returned to the wild under the terms of this licence may:
 - 3.1 in the case of species that are not listed in the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, be offered to a fauna park or zoo licensed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act, 1986. (Note: in such cases it is the responsibility of the fauna park or zoo to seek appropriate approvals from the Service and NSW Agriculture),
 - 3.2 in the case of species that are listed in the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, with the Services prior written consent, be offered to a translocation project that includes captive breeding as part of its recovery approval, or to an appropriate research project or to a fauna park or zoo licensed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act, 1986;
 - 3.3 with the prior written consent of the local office of the Service, be retained in permanent care by an appropriately and specifically authorised rehabilitators for the purpose of providing:
 - 3.3.1 an essential companion animal to others of its species that are undergoing rehabilitation;
 - 3.3.2 or an acceptable resource in an approved educational or scientific program.

Note: Permanent care animals will be restricted to absolutely essential species and numbers and only in exceptional circumstances will the Service authorise the permanent retention of animals under this condition. Written proposals justifying the retention of animals on an individual basis, must have the written endorsement of the licensee and be submitted to the local office of the Service where it will be considered on its merits. Except in the case of threatened species covered by a captive breeding and translocation approval, consent will not be given to retain animals for captive breeding and release of progeny;

3.3.2.1 in the case of a bird of a species that is commonly kept as a pet, the Service will consider, the granting of approval for its retention in captivity as a pet;

3.3.2.2 in the case of an individual bird, reptile or amphibian that is originally encounter well outside of its natural range and cannot be release under condition 12 of this licence, the licensee should assume that the animal is an escaped pet, or has been inadvertently transported from its natural range, and arrange for the transfer of the animal to an appropriate animal keeping organisation where it may be passed to an appropriate person to keep it as a pet.

4. Animals that cannot be returned the wild released, or retained in captivity as provided in conditions 10,11,12,13 or 14 shall be humanely euthanased.

FAUNA REGISTER

5. The license shall maintain registers of:

- a. all animals that are transferred to fauna parks, zoos and other institutions, organisations or individuals as may be allowed by the conditions of this licence.
- b. all permanently held live animals.
- c. each preserved specimen of native fauna held for educational purposes.

Appendix C

NATF Rescuers' & Rehabilitators' Policy© Revised 2004 (Extract)

Rescuers & Rehabilitators will not

- Hold non-releasable fauna unless they have satisfied the conditions of the General Licence.