



NATF^{INC} Hunter Wildlife Rescue

Bandicoot, Dasyurids and Native Rodent Rehabilitation Policy

NATF^{INC} Bandicoot/Dasyurids/Native Rodent rehabilitators are authorised to hold, for the purpose of rehabilitation, sick, injured or orphaned wildlife and return all successfully rehabilitated or hand raised fauna to a suitable natural environment. Dasyurids include phascogales, antechinus, and quolls.



Bandicoot, dasyurid and native rodent rehabilitators must demonstrate compliance with the Standards in the *OEH Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna* (2011) in relation to rescue, transport, assessment, care, husbandry, housing release and euthanasia.

The following **Bandicoot, Dasyurid & Native Rodent Rehabilitation Policy** refers to the rehabilitation of all bandicoots, phascogales, quolls, antechinus, dunnarts and native rodents and must be read in conjunction with the

- OEH Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna (2011)
 - DECCW Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy (2010)
 - NATF^{INC} General Licence Conditions
 - NATF^{INC} Rescuers' and Rehabilitators' Policy (revise 2004)
- and
- Species Coordinators responsibilities.

The minimum requirements for the rehabilitation of all bandicoots, dasyurids and native rodents include

1. Being a current financial members of the NATF^{INC}
2. Completing the *Introduction to the NATF^{INC} & Basic Rescue* workshops
3. Completing a NATF^{INC} approved *Bandicoot, Dasyurid and Native Rodent Rehabilitation* training course or equivalent one-on-one approved interim training and the next available approved *Bandicoot, Dasyurid and Native Rodent Rehabilitation* training course
4. Being approved to rescue, hold or rehabilitate bandicoots, dasyurids and native rodents under NATF^{INC} License.
5. Having equipment and facilities approved to rehabilitate bandicoots, dasyurids and native rodents. (See Appendix A: Facilities Inspection Checklist)
6. Reporting all bandicoots, dasyurids and native rodents to the species co-ordinator.
7. Maintaining rehabilitation progress records.
8. Recording and reporting accurate data to the Data Base Coordinator monthly.

Bandicoot Rehabilitators' responsibilities include:

1. **Providing optimum levels of care and animal welfare**
 - a. Ensure no bandicoot, dasyurid or native rodents suffers undue pain or distress.
 - b. Ensure appropriate nutrition, including access to natural foods.
 - c. Provide appropriate facilities that
 - i. Keep the fauna safe, minimise stress and prevent further injury.



- ii. Are well maintained, clean and hygienic.
- iii. Provide the fauna with an opportunity to express a range of natural behaviours.
- d. Ensure fauna are not held for an extended period of time that may compromise their successful rehabilitation.
- e. Provide protection from domestic pets and other predators;
- f. No fauna is to be used as an item for 'show and tell'.

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

An individual bandicoot, dasyurid or native rodent rehabilitation progress plan is developed, in consultation with the coordinator or treating veterinary (See Appendices B & C).

Rescue

All rescues and transportation of fauna is conducted so as to minimise further stress and injury to fauna. In line with Section 5 and 6 of the OEH *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna* (2011)

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

Taking in account hydration levels, as a guide this means

- Bandicoots over 30 gms
- Phascagales 12 gms
- Antechinus 8 gms
- Native rodents 8gm
- Quolls

Viability of all neonatal fauna is to be reassessed by the coordinator one week after coming into rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation practices recognise the mandatory standards and guidelines in the OEH *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna* (2011) in regards to

Section (8) Care Procedures: Monitoring and Controlling disease transmission between animals

- To ensure the health issues of fauna undergoing rehabilitation can be promptly identified and managed. The type and frequency of monitoring will vary with the species, age, type of injury or illness and required treatment.
- To prevent the spread of diseases among fauna undergoing rehabilitation. Stressed animals are more susceptible to contracting and expressing infectious diseases.

Section (9) Husbandry: Food & Water and Hygiene

- To ensure that fauna have a feeding and watering regime that encourages rapid recovery, supports growth in juveniles and assists with the maintenance of foraging behaviour necessary for survival in the wild.
- To maintain clean rehabilitation facilities so that diseases are prevented or contained.

Section (10) Housing

- To ensure that fauna undergoing rehabilitation are housed in enclosures that keep it safe, secure and free from additional stress.

Coordinator Responsibilities

- a. Rehabilitation placement is determined by the coordinator with buddying a first priority if appropriate.
- b. Joey bandicoots, small dasyurids and native rodents to be raised with a buddy of similar age/size/species where possible or advisable.
- c. The coordinator should be advised of any changes to



- i. Health or condition
- ii. Feeding problems
- d. The coordinator should be advised of any changes to the fauna's rehabilitation plan including:
 - i. Buddying
 - ii. Transferring
 - iii. Temporary changes to rehabilitation eg joey-sitting, holidays.
 - iv. Movement within key stage environments (Basket to cocky cage/tank; cocky cage/tank to aviary)
 - v. Release



Release

Suitability for release is decided in line with the OEH *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Protected Fauna* (2011), Section 11. Preparations for release will start at the time of rescue and continue throughout the rehabilitation process. Many species will gradually lose their survival skills in captivity, so it is vital their time in care is kept to a minimum.

- a. Only fauna that is physically fit will be released. (see Standard 11.1.1)
- b. Only fauna that is behaviourally ready and possess the appropriate survival skills will be released. (See Standard 11.1.2)
- c. Fauna's readiness for release must be confirmed by either a veterinarian or experienced fauna rehabilitator.

Timing of Release Fauna is released as soon as it is ready and at a time that minimises stress and maximises its chances of survival in its natural habitat. (See Standard 12.1.1)

Fauna is released as soon as when conditions are suitable (See Standard 12.1.1) taking into account

- a. Time of year that facilitates survival and reintegration into the wild populations
- b. When weather conditions are favourable
- c. Optimal time of day/night that enables it to immediately investigate environment.

Release Site selection will ensure that the wild population and natural environment are not negatively impacted by the release. The welfare of the rehabilitated animal after release is a secondary objective. (see Standard 12.2)

- a. If the exact location where fauna was found is known and it is a suitable environment for release, it must be released there.
- b. If the exact location where fauna was found is known but it is an unsuitable environment for release, it must be released in a suitable environment as near as possible to this location, without transporting it across a physical boundary that it would not normally cross or further than it would normally move.

Release Techniques (See Standard 12.3) that facilitate successful reintegration into the wild population include

- a. 'Soft' release for hand-reared fauna and fauna that have been in care for extended periods of time should be provided with temporary post-release support where possible. This may include supplementary feeding, shelter provision or protection from predators.
- b. Release sites to be pre-determined according to the individual progress management plan.
- c. Juveniles to be released with any buddy with whom it has been raised
- d. Juveniles to be released with the pre-release nest/box in which it habited during its final stage of rehabilitation.
- e. Final release shall occur at dispersal age and when the juvenile meets a combination of weight, age and fitness criteria, including:
 - ♦ be able to seek and find natural foods
 - ♦ be dehumanised and actively avoid humans
 - ♦ does not associate disturbance with food
 - ♦ be weathered and able to seek shelter from inclement weather
 - ♦ be predator-proof and actively avoid non-species including pets.

Euthanasia

7. Euthanasia (See Standard Section 7) All decisions regarding euthanasia must be made in either the best interest of the individual animal or the species as a whole.

Euthanasia must only be conducted by a qualified veterinarian.

Fauna is to be euthanased when

- a. in situations where death is imminent; or
- b. recovery is impossible; or
- c. the likelihood of successful reintegration into the wild population is remote; or
- d. the animal poses an unacceptable health risk to wild animals.

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

3.1 Transfer of wildlife between Licensed Groups & Individuals

- i. In line with MOU with other licensed rehabilitation groups, wildlife rescued from outside NATF^{INC} area are to be transferred to the originating group once stabilised and returned at the earliest possible time.
- ii. Where there is no MOU developed with the designated rehabilitation licensed group, members are to contact their coordinator as soon as possible where the Coordinator will inform the Management Committee prior to transfer
- iii. No fauna is to be transferred from NATF^{INC} to other licensed rehabilitation groups or individual licenced holders without the consent of the Management Committee.



3.2 Complying with the General Licence Conditions and NATF^{INC} Rescuers' and Rehabilitators' Policy including:

- i. Accepting that NPWS, the Management Committee or the Coordinator has the right to monitor the progress and facilities of all rescuer/rehabilitators including the right to inspect premises and facilities.
- ii. Developing a working relationship with a nominated veterinarian interested in native wildlife.
- iii. At no time authorising X-rays or surgery without the permission of a Coordinator.
- iv. Accessing ongoing training opportunities to keep abreast of current procedures and rehabilitation methods.
- v. Maintaining detailed Record Keeping (See Standard 14) and progress records to accompany fauna throughout its rehabilitation.
- vi. Follow NPWS guidelines for permanent care for unreleasable threatened species or other wildlife.

All NATF INC 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 Coordinator(s).

Reference:

- Peter Coote B.V.Sc: "Veterinary aspects of Care"
- Jill Dean "Bandicoots, Dasyurids and Native Rodents. Hand Rearing & The Care, Management & Release of Juveniles to Adults" NATF 2009, Reviewed 2013.
- Peter Jones "Bandicoots" NATF 1998
- Rhonda McClymont: "The Care & Hand-raising if Orphaned & Injured Bandicoots" 2008

APPENDIX A

Native Animal Trust Fund ^{INC}

HUNTER WILDLIFE RESCUE



FACILITIES SELF-ASSESSMENT INSPECTION CHECKLIST BANDICOOTS, DASYURIDS & NATIVE RODENTS

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.

This self-assessment checklist should be completed by the member prior to a facilities inspection.

A. General Rehabilitation: Intensive Care & Orphaned Young			
HEAT SOURCE Quantity & Type eg Heat pad Optimum requirement: Heat pad with variable heat levels; Incubator;	☐ YES ☐ NO	INTENSIVE CARE BASKETS or BOXES 1. Orphaned joeys and Antechinus /mice: Approx 0.3 x 0.2m Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO
DIGITAL SCALES	☐ YES ☐ NO	2. Phascagales, rats, quolls: 0.5 x 0.3m Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO
FIRST AID EQUIPMENT Vetwrap; antiseptic,	☐ YES ☐ NO	3. Bandicoots: 0.5 x 0.5m Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO
FOOD ➤ Feeding containers - general ➤ Feeding containers suitable for bandicoots ➤ High Protein Supplement, Small Carnivore mix etc ➤ Whole body foods ➤ De Gas (Orphaned Bandicoots)	☐ YES ☐ NO	IMMEDIATE CARE HOUSING 1. Antechinus /mice: Approx 1.0 x 0.3m Number & Type 2. Phascagales, rats, quolls & bandicoots: 1.0 x 1.0m Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ YES ☐ NO
REHYDRATION Equipment (Lecatade, Polyaid; syringe/tubes etc).	☐ YES ☐ NO	PRE-RELEASE HOUSING 1. Antechinus, mice: 1.5 x 1.0 X 1.0m Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO
STERILISATION EQUIPMENT & Facilities Eg Milton; Bleach, Nappisan etc	☐ YES ☐ NO	2. Phascagales, rats: 3.0 x 2.0 x 2.0m Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO
TOWELS	☐ YES ☐ NO	3. Bandicoots, quolls: 4.0 x 3.0 x 2.0m Number & Type	☐ YES ☐ NO
Location suitable for Emergency Care (Quiet, warm, access to shade)			☐ YES ☐ NO
Maximum Wildlife Capacity for Intensive Care and Orphan Young			
Maximum Wildlife Capacity for Long term rehabilitation			

OUTDOOR RPPE-RELEASE REHABILITATION HOUSING FACILITIES

B: Facilities for long-term rehabilitation or pre-release stage for orphaned young:		
PRE-RELEASE HOUSING	SMALL AVIARY Antechinus, mice: 1.5 x 1.0 X 1.0m Number & Type Phascagales, rats: 3.0 x 2.0 x 2.0m Number & Type	LARGE AVIARY Bandicoots, quolls: 4.0 x 3.0 x 2.0m (Must not be able to dig way out)
Number		
Maximum Wildlife Capacity		
Species specific capacity	☐ Antechinus, , ☐ Native mice, ☐ Phascagale ☐ Rats	☐ Bandicoots, ☐ Quolls
<i>To keep the fauna safe, minimise stress and prevent further injury consider</i>		
Weathering: Protection from and access to rain & heat;		
Water availability		
Separated from family pets		
Condition (eg well maintained, clean and hygienic)		
Security (can the animal dig its way out?)		
Vermin-proof		
<i>To provide fauna with an opportunity to express a range of natural behaviours consider</i>		
Exercise availability		
Range of branches or ropes		
Accessibility to natural foods		
Weathering Access to rain & wind		
Floor Substrate /leaf litter/soft deep soil		
Other species specific requirements		

Suggested Areas for Improvement: _____

Native Animal Trust Fund Inc

HUNTER WILDLIFE RESCUE

Volunteers in the Hunter Region

**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)
OEH Code of Practice for Injured, Sick & Orphaned Protected Fauna		
Bandicoots, Dasyurids and Native Rodents. Hand Rearing & The Care, Management & Release of Juveniles to Adults		

2. DATA

Data submitted monthly	☐ YES ☐ NO
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3. LEVEL OF AUTHORISATION OF FACILITIES APPROVED:

- ☐ Intensive Care
☐ Orphaned Young
☐ Emerging Young (up to cocky cage stage)
☐ Intermediate Rehabilitation
☐ Pre-Release

4. SPECIES OF FAUNA SUITABLE TO THE FACILITIES APPROVED

☐ Antechinus ☐ Phascogales ☐ Native Rodents ☐ Bandicoots ☐ Quolls

Person Completing Inspection: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

Member's Signature _____ Date _____

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																
																Mouth																
																Teeth																
																Nose																
Observations																Head																
																Forearms																
																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																
																Cloaca																
																Breathing																
																Faeces																
Observations																Fur																

Progress:

Date:	Food:	Quantity	Other observations

APPENDIX B

Orphaned Rehabilitation Plan

	Intensive Care Pouch Young/Basket Stage (Viability)	Intermediate Stage Emerging Young	Pre-Release Aviary Stage Fully Emerged Young
Age			
Developmental Milestones Antechinus: Adult: Up to 71 Phascogales: Adults: Up to 180(f)300gms(m) Native Rats Adult: Up to	Antechinus: Viable gms Attached to teat: Eyes Open: Phascogales: Viable 12 gms Attached to teat: 7wks Eyes Open: 14gms Native Rats weaned: Viable gms Attached to teat: Eyes Open:	Antechinus: Introduce solids gms – Emerged gms Weaned gms - Phascogales: Introduce solids 20gms – Emerged 40 gms Weaned 50 gms (3 months) Native Rats weaned : Introduce solids gms – Emerged 3 wks gms Weaned 4 wks gms -	Antechinus: Outside Aviary: Released: Sexually Mature: Phascogales: Outside Aviary: Released: 100gms Sexually Mature: 180gms (8mths) Native Rats Outside Aviary: 5 wks Released: 6 wks Sexually Mature:
Background Date/Sex/Weight Stabilisation			
Date			
Rehabilitator			
Progress:		☐ Soft Release: ☐ Hard Release Location: Weight: Date: Checklist for release: ☐ Correct size/age; Fit/healthy ☐ Displays natural behaviours ☐ Weathered ☐ Recognises natural diet ☐ Dehumanised ☐ Predator Proof	

APPENDIX C

Bandicoot Rehabilitation Plan

	Intensive Care Pouch Young Basket Stage	Intermediate Care Emerging Young Tank Stage	Pre-Release Stage Fully Emerged Young Outside Aviary
Weight Range	30gms- 60gms	60gms – 150gms	150gms-400gms
Developmental Milestones Bandicoot : Adult: Up to	Bandicoot Viable: 30gms Eyes Open: 45gm Lapping: 50gms Thermoregulates:	Bandicoot: Introduce solids 60gms Emerged gms Weaned 150gms	Bandicoot Outside Aviary: 150gms Released: 400gms Sexually Mature:
Background			
Date/Sex/Weight			
Stabilisation			
Date			
Rehabilitator			
		☐ Soft Release: ☐ Hard Release Location: Weight: Date: Checklist for release: ☐ Correct size/age; Fit/healthy ☐ Displays natural behaviours ☐ Weathered ☐ Recognises natural diet ☐ Dehumanised ☐ Predator Proof	