

RICC WORKSHOP INFORMATION SHEETS

PLEASE RETURN TO TRAINERS AT END OF SESSION

Bird Food Groupings and Handling Risks

Food Group	Predominant Food Sources	Species	Handling Risks
Omnivore	Insects, fruit, seeds, carrion etc.	Magpies, currawongs, ravens, seagulls, ibis'	Medium – sharp hook, point and edges on some beaks, rear toe in larger birds
Carnivore	Whole foods – mice, smaller birds, frogs and lizards and insects	Kookaburras, butcherbirds, raptors	High – raptor talons Medium – sharp hook, point and edges on some beaks
Insectivore	Large and small insects	Wrens, thornbills, magpie-larks, robins, swallows, tawny frogmouths (tawny's also eat whole foods)	Medium – sharp rear toe in some species Small birds stress easily when handled and their risk of stress-induced heart attack is high
Nectivore	Pollen and nectar, fruit and insects	Honeyeaters, lorikeets	Medium – beaks of lorikeets, hind toes of honeyeaters Low – all others
Granivore	Seeds, greens, seeding grasses, some insects and fruit	Parrots, finches and pigeons	High – overlapping, strong beak of parrot species Low – all others
Frugivore	Native and introduced fruits and berries as well as some insects	Fruit doves/pigeons, bowerbirds, large cuckoos and orioles	Medium – sharp rear toe in some species
Herbivore	Pond weeds, greens, grasses and insects	Wood ducks, moorhens, coots and swans	High – strong beak of native hens Medium – swan wings
Piscivore	Variety of salt and freshwater fish and crustaceans	Cormorants, shearwaters, shorebirds, pelicans, herons	High – piercing beak of herons, darters etc. which can cause harm to a rescuer's eye. Medium – beak of shearwaters & pelicans

Typical Weights for Adult Birds

In grams, range xx-xx or xx/xx = female/male.

Apostlebird	110-135	Frogmouth, Tawny	280/350	Parrot, King	210-265
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	100-150	Galah	330-350	Parrot, Red-rumped	60-65
Bowerbird, Satin	165-260	Koel, Common	245- 250	Pigeon, Common Bronzewing	320-350
Butcherbird, Grey	75-110	Kookaburra, Laughing	310-380+	Pheasant Coucal	500-550
Brush Turkey, Australian	1200-2600	Honeyeater, Blue-faced	100-160	Pigeon, Wonga	330-500
Chough, White-winged	320-370	Honeyeater, Lewin's	24-40	Pigeon, Crested	150-250g
Cockatiel	80-100	Honeyeater New Holland	20-25	Raven, Australian	450-650
Cockatoo, Gang Gang	250-300	Honeyeater Whitecheeked	18-22	Robins	12-14
Cockatoo, Sulphur Crested	815-975	Honeyeater White-plumed	20-25	Rosella, Crimson	120-150
Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black	610-900	Honeyeater Spiny-cheeked	40-46	Rosella, Eastern	100-110
Corella, Little	485-590	Honeyeater, Scarlet	8-11	Rosella, Pale-headed	90-120
Corella, Long-billed	565-600	Lorikeet, Rainbow	120-130	Silvereye	12-15
Cuckoo, Channel-billed	560-935	Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted	70-80	Swallow, Welcome	12-18
Cuckoo, Fan-tailed	45-50	Lorikeet, Musk	70-85	Thornbills	6-8
Cuckoo, Shining-bronze	25	Lorikeet, Little	40-50	Wattle Bird, Red	101/120
Currawong, Pied	250-360	Magpie	320-360	Wattle Bird, Little	60-80
Dollar Bird	125-143	Magpie-Lark (peewee)	85-130	Willie Wagtail	18-20
Fantail	8	Masked Lapwing	230-400	Whistler, Golden	22-26
Figbird	90-135	Nightjar, Owlet	40-45	Whipbird, Eastern	50-60
Finch, Red-browed	8-13	Nightjar, White-throated	100-160	Wood-swallows	32-37
Finch, Zebra	8	Noisy Miner	60-70	Wrens, Superb Fairy	9-12
Friarbird, Noisy	90-130	Pardalote, Spotted	11-13		

NOTE: for bird weights not outlined in this table, please refer to your field guide for more information.

Common Bird Species - Adult Food Guide

The following information is for reference and you should not feed a bird unless under the direct instruction and guidance of your Bird Coordinator. To learn more about caring for birds in care, please consider registering for the WIRES Avian Care Course.

Common Species	Natural Diet	Captive Diet	Notes
Currawong, Raven, Magpie	Insects, carrion, small reptiles and mammals, fruits and seeds	Lean meat strips and Insecta Pro/Insectavore, chopped fresh fruit (dark grapes and berries), mixed seed, fresh corn cut from the cob, defrosted corn and peas, live insects (mealworms and beetles, crickets, worms etc.), mice	
Kookaburra, Butcherbird	Lizards, snakes, frogs, small mammals and birds, larger insects	Lean meat strips and Insecta Pro/Insectavore, live insects (mealworms and beetles, crickets, worms etc.) rats and mice of different ages	
Sacred, Forest, Azure Kingfisher	Insects, larvae, crustaceans, small fish, reptiles	Lean meat strips and Insecta Pro/Insectavore, Insecta Pro pellets, live insects, small fish, meal worms, pinkie mice	Kingfishers are highly stressed, need specialised care
Magpie-lark, Fairy Wren, Willy Wagtail	Variety of insects - moths, beetles, caterpillars, worms, etc.	Lean meat strips and Insectapro/Insectivore, Insecta Pro pellets, live insects (mealworms and beetles, termites, slaters, worms, aphids etc.).	Small birds such as Fairy Wrens stress very easily, so handle them as little as possible
Welcome Swallow, Swift, Dollarbird	Variety of flying insects – moths, beetles, flies etc.	Lean meat strips and Insectapro/Insectivore, Insecta Pro pellets, live flying insects, live insects (mealworms and beetles, crickets etc.)	Catch food on the wing, hard to feed in captivity. Will need specialist care
Tawny Frogmouth	Large insect and moths, some small vertebrates	Lean meat strips and Insecta Pro/Insectavore or Insecta Pro pellets, live insects (mealworms and beetles, crickets, etc.) mice occasionally	Mice to be given only occasionally
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Corella, Galah	Native seeds, nuts, fruits, new shoots, nectar, insects and larvae	Good quality parrot seed, fresh fruit (dark grapes and berries.) greens (celery, grasses and seed heads, dandelion, milk thistle etc.) Corn on the cob, gum tree branches mixed nuts	Feed grey sunflower seeds sparingly, do not feed black sunflower seeds (high fat content)
Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Wattlebird, Rainbow and Scalybreasted Lorikeets,	Pollen and nectar, some fruit and insects	Lorikeet and Honeyeater Mix, freshly picked native flowers (Bottle brush, Grevillias etc.), fresh fruit (dark grapes and berries), live insects, (mealworms etc.).	Wet Lorikeet and Honeyeater mix will sour in hot weather and may cause illness
Figbirds, Oriole, Bowerbird, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Koel	Fruits and berries, native figs and fruits, mulberries, some insects	Native figs and fruits (Lilli pilly, Blueberry Ash, Bleeding heart, etc.), diced fresh fruit both with and without a sprinkle of Insectapro/ Insectavore, fresh corn cut from the cob, defrosted peas and corn, good quality seed mix, mealworms	Cuckoos will eat more insects and meat when juveniles. Store bought fruit should be used sparingly because of sugar content

Fruit Pigeons: White-headed Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon	Native fruits, berries and seeds, some insects	Native figs and fruits (Lilli pilly, Blueberry Ash, Bleeding heart, etc.), diced fresh fruit both with and without a sprinkle of Insectapro /Insectavore, fresh corn cut from the cob, defrosted corn and peas, good quality seed mix, mealworms	Store bought fruit should be used sparingly because of sugar content
Granivorous Pigeons: Crested Pigeon, Barshouldered Dove	Seeds and seeding grasses, soft green shoots, buds and insects	Pigeon and budgie seed mix, Chick Crumble, greens and sprouts, fresh corn cut from the cob, defrosted corn and peas	Young Crested Pigeons look similar to adults, but will need crop feeding
King Quail, Stubble Quail, Finch	Insects, small seeds and seeding grasses, greens	Good quality seed mix, Chick Crumble, live insects, greens and sprouts, mealworms	
King Parrot, Eastern and Crimson Rosella	Native seeds and nuts, fruits, new shoots, nectar, insects and larvae	Good quality seed mix, fresh fruit (dark grapes and berries) greens (celery, grasses and seed heads, dandelion, milk thistle etc.) fresh corn on the cob, defrosted peas and corn, mixed nuts	
Wood Duck, Black Swan, Purple Swamphen	Feed mainly on grasses, herbs, and sedges, aquatic plants. Also some seeds, insects and small fish	Sprouts and greens (dandelion, milk thistle, deep green leafy vegetables, water weed), Chick Crumble, good quality seed mix, live insects (meal worms and beetles)	Do not give any cabbage family greens or tough grasses
Pacific Black Duck, Whistling Duck, Moorhen	Greens, seeds, insects, small fish, crustaceans and snails	Budgie and canary seed, Chick Crumble, live insects (meal worms and beetles, small fish) Sprouts and greens	Do not give any cabbage family greens or tough grasses
Masked Lapwing, Plover	Insects, molluscs, worms, crustaceans, vegetable matter and seeds	Chick crumble, good quality seed mix, live insects (mealworms and beetles, crickets, worms etc.), sprouts and soft greens (dandelion, milk thistle etc.)	
Terns, Shearwaters	Fish, crustaceans, other sea life	Ocean fish eg mullet, pilchards, whitebait	Supplement frozen fish with Vetafarm Seabird tablets
White-faced Heron, Ibis, Cormorant, Bittern	Variety of insects, amphibians, small fish and crustaceans, some will eat small reptiles and mammals	Lean meat strips with Insectapro/Insectavore, small fish and/or fish strips, green prawns, raw seafood mix, small adult mice, live insects (mealworms, worms etc.).	

Rescue Equipment Items

- Call sheet details/Animal Report Form (on your smartphone via xMatters)
- Notepad and pen
- Street directory via GPS, paper map or on smartphone map software
- A strong pet carrier (e.g. top-opening pet carrier lined with shade cloth on the interior. The shade cloth lining prevents feathers being damaged by the mesh).
- Different sized towels (without loose threads, as these can get caught on claws or feathers and often cause damage). Towels are helpful with animal capture and are also used to prevent animals sliding around in boxes during transport
- A woollen blanket or doona cover. These are useful for larger animals and in capturing those which are more active or numerous
- Cotton bags (baby & regular sized pillow slips, bank bags, etc.) turned inside out to avoid loose threads, with elastic bands or cable ties. These are useful in lining pouches for young mammals and weighing birds
- Small & large woollen pouches and cotton liners
- Hot water bottle to provide immediate warmth when transporting animals. Water should be warm water, not hot and the bottle should be covered with a towel and secure enough not to crush or injure the animal in transit. Check the temperature by placing your wrist on the covered bottle – if you can't hold it there, it is too hot. For longer distances it is useful to have a thermos to refill it when necessary
- Scissors, plastic tweezers and long nosed pliers. Some of these are only for use where the removal of the animal takes some time (e.g. entanglement).
- Disposable gloves for removing joeys during a pouch check and self-protection against fluids or pollutants
- Sanitizer
- Releasable cable ties
- Official WIRES reflective vest for roadside rescues
- Your WIRES online ID



Common pieces of rescue equipment

Additional Equipment Items:

- Field guides for birds, reptiles, mammals and amphibians
- Large cotton handkerchiefs for placing over artificial nests when transporting fledgling birds
- Torch
- Binoculars
- Rehydration fluids such as Spark, Lectade or Vytrate. Hydration should only be provided to animals that are conscious and warm.
- Saline solution for cleaning wounds if necessary
- Digital thermometer
- Accurate scales for recording the weight of animals
- Nets with small mesh size to avoid entanglements

Rescue Carriers:

Rescue carriers or containers are an essential part of your kit. Carriers must be appropriate for the species, size, strength and temperament of the animal. They also need to be designed, set-up and secured in a way to prevent injuries or further injuries to the animal being rescued and transported. This may involve padding walls and covering floors with a nonslip, non-ingestible, tangle-free surface. They must be escape-proof and ventilated so air can circulate around the animal. Any carriers used must also minimise light, noise and vibrations and prevent contact with young children and pets.

Rescue carriers are dependent on the species but may include:

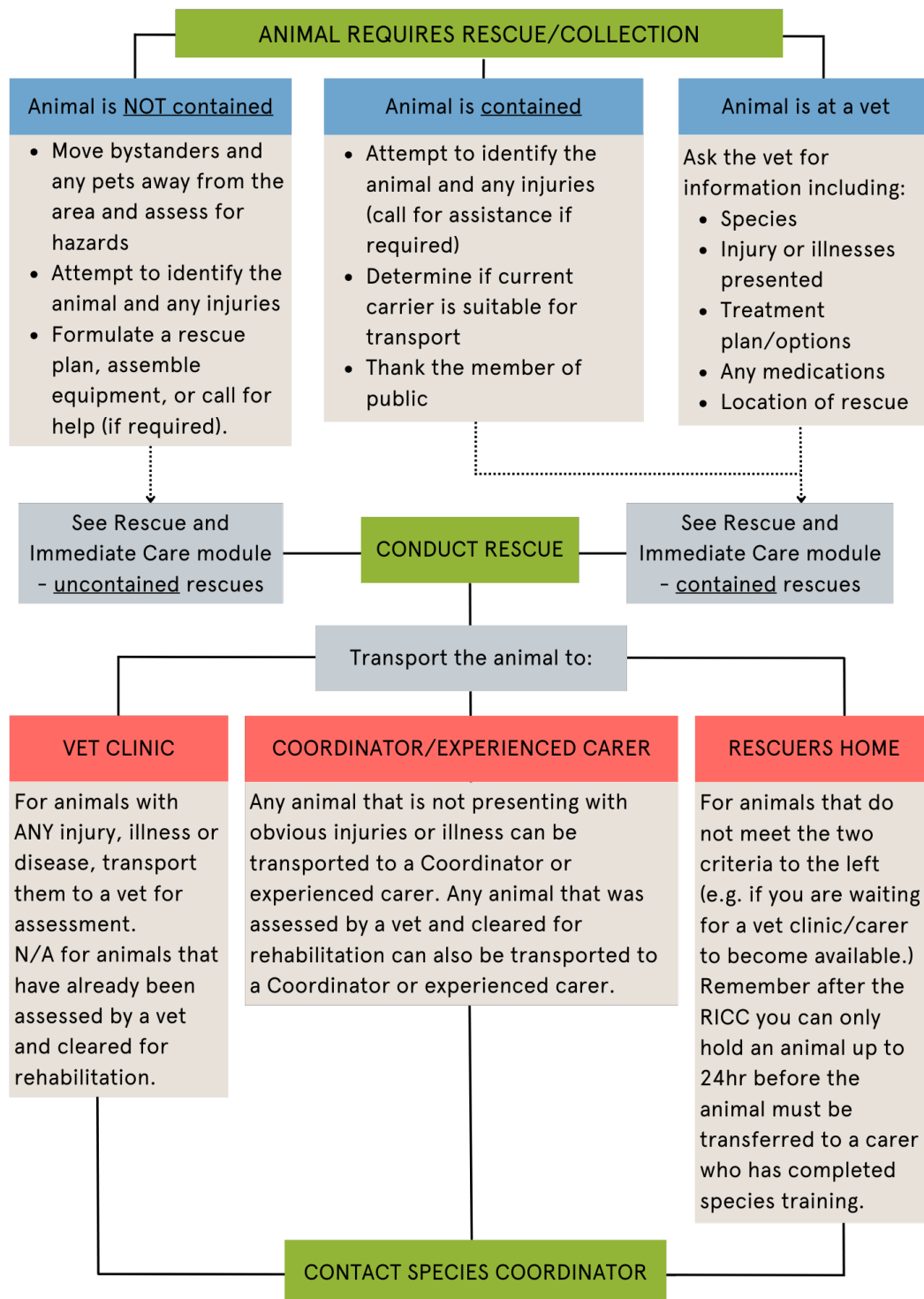
- A sturdy cardboard box with ventilation holes
- A plastic pet carrier (top opening)
- A metal pet carrier (top opening and lined with shadecloth)
- A soft-sided pet carrier
- A ventilated plastic tub with lid
- A corflute carrier with ventilation holes

Some species such as young joeys will need to be placed into a pouch, before being secured in a carrier. Some species such as reptiles (lizards and turtles) will need to be placed in a breathable pillowcase that has been tied off, before being placed in a plastic ventilated tub for transport.

The Rescue Process

When attending a rescue, it is important to ask yourself a few important questions to ascertain whether the animal needs rescuing and what the best course of action is to conduct the rescue.

You can use the following chart as a guide to help with your decision making.



Rescue, Risks, Actions and Equipment for Small Mammals

Rescue Situation	Rescuer Risk	Observations/Actions	Equipment
Domestic animal attack	Bites and scratches	Straight to vet for antibiotics	Rescue basket, towels, pouches, gloves (adult possums), heat source, hydration solution
Attack by birds	Bites and scratches	Examination for obvious injuries Vet if required	Rescue basket, towels, pouches, gloves (adult possums), heat source, hydration solution
Hit by vehicle or lawnmowers	Location hazards-falling, tripping, uneven terrain	Likely to have internal injuries regardless of external appearance - to vet	Plastic sheet/tarp (for your car), WIRES safety vest, rescue carrier, towels, gloves, hydration solution
Trees or undergrowth being cut down exposing their dens	Location hazards-falling, tripping, uneven terrain	Relocate at night if habitat available	Towels, rescue basket & gloves for large possums. Speak to coordinator
Electrocution on power lines	Electrocution/Electric shock	Watch for joeys in dead female pouches. Do not attempt to remove animal from powerline, call energy company	Rescue basket, towels, pouches, gloves (adult possums), heat source, hydration solution
Entangled in barbed wire	Bites and scratches Cuts or abrasions from tensioned wire Weather conditions-heat stroke, sunburn	Cover the animals head & work slowly through the entanglement Straight to vet for assessment	Rescue basket, towels, pouches, gloves (adult possums), heat source, hydration solution PLUS: Additional towel, Wires cutters, 2 x quality pliers, Tie wire, hot water bottle, hat, sunscreen and protective eyewear
Becoming stuck in a chimney, wall cavity or similar	Bites and scratches	May be able to release if no injuries monitor for 24 hours. WIRES volunteers are not permitted to enter wall or roof cavities may need to refer to professional service	Rescue basket, towels, pouches, gloves (adult possums), heat source, hydration solution
Feathertails, Planigales and Phascogales are often found in fire wood	Bites and scratches	Check for breaks or internal injuries – straight to the vet or an experienced volunteer	Rescue basket, towels, pouches, gloves (adult possums), heat source, hydration solution
Live young (without mother)	Location hazards-falling, tripping, uneven terrain, passing cars	Straight to experienced volunteer or veterinarian	Standard rescue kit - Rescue basket, towels, pouches, heat source, hydration solution & teats
Live young (with dead mother)	Location hazards-falling, tripping, uneven terrain, passing cars	Straight to experienced volunteer or veterinarian	Large bags (canvas/cotton) Plastic sheet/tarp WIRES safety vest