



## **WIRES Image and Video Footage Guidelines - Food, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release**

These additional guidelines apply in conjunction with WIRES Image and Photo Guidelines and cover more specific guidelines for images and video footage of animals in care receiving supplementary foods and more specific guidelines of images and video footage taken in the course of rescue, care and release.

WIRES is Australia's largest and highest profile wildlife rescue organisation and it is important to ensure imagery showing the feeding of native animals in care features best practise that is in line with all WIRES species manuals guidelines for supplementary captive feeding, both food volume and food items.

All images and footage must comply with all the conditions for animal care as specified in our [NPWS Licence Conditions](#), all WIRES Policies and the OEH [Code of Practise for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Native Fauna](#), all individual WIRES Species Codes and Manuals and the [Conditions of WIRES Membership](#) and [WIRES Code of Conduct](#).

Images of animals being rehabilitated under the WIRES' licence being fed or with food in the image must comply with all the guidelines for supplementary in care / captive feeding as outlined in the relevant WIRES Species Manual. The feeding and food guidelines in the Species Manuals are the guidelines that must be adhered to by all WIRES members/volunteers.

### **Specific Guidelines for Rescue, Care and Release, Food, Feeding Images / Footage**

#### **Rescue Images / Footage:**

- Images where animals are being contained/handled without a towel or appropriate PPE or some sort of barrier, especially flying-foxes or microbats, should be avoided
- Images where the volunteer is visible, appropriate PPE and clothing should be apparent. Images where shorts, thongs or other inappropriate footwear or clothing are visible, should be avoided
- Images of animals being transported that are not contained in appropriate carrier, are not appropriate, this includes the lining on rescue crates for birds to avoid feather damage.
- Images where a member is climbing or at height should be avoided
- Images should always only show the correct handling of animal at all times

#### **In Care/Rehabilitation images and video footage:**

- Any images where the animal is being fed and food is visible must have correct diet for species as per relevant WIRES Species Manuals (as close to native diet as possible) and any water stations visible must show clean water.
- Images where enclosures are visible, must have appropriate set-ups including shade cloth, substrate etc. Images should also only display clean enclosures.

- Images of animals being fed supplementary food\* that is not currently recommended (see further details below) should be avoided.
- Images of animals being fed should only show the appropriate food for the development stage of the animal if photo is of an animal outside in a pen.
- Images of animals sitting or climbing on any person, including any animals inside items of clothing such as down the front of a shirt are not appropriate.
- Any person snuggling, kissing or petting an animal is not appropriate.
- Wildlife should never be near any domestic animals.
- Any uncontained animal moving around a house/room or any domestic environment should be avoided.
- Nocturnal animals being released/handled or fed during the day are not appropriate.
- Macropod joeys should not be photographed in polyester or padded vests that people sew the arm holes and bottoms up and use the zipper for them to get in and out from.
- Native animals sleeping in fluffy dog beds or with teddies or soft toys\* are not appropriate.
- Animals that should be buddied should only be in images shown in pairs or groups of their own species, not one on one with their carer nor with other species.
- Animals with diseases who are undergoing rehabilitation should be quarantined and therefore only in images or footage where that is apparent.
- Any images where an animal is displaying signs of stress when in care should be avoided
- Any images of animal undergoing rehabilitation should be sourced within routine husbandry operations (minimal disruption to animal is priority)
- Always be mindful of the age of the animal and what the appropriate level of interaction should be for that age. For example, is the animal of an age and weight range that they should be in outdoor enclosure with minimal human contact.

#### **Release images / footage:**

- Images of releases must be showing appropriate time of day for the species
- Animals being photographed during release should be in a fit and appropriate condition
- Animals being released must be allowed to make their own movements. This includes no pushing animals out of carriers / throwing birds into the air

#### **Supplementary Feeding Image Guidelines**

For most animals in care their diet should be as close to their native diets as possible and feature fresh foliage or termites for echidnas, insects for bandicoots, crayfish / earthworm in water and mealworms for platypus / insectivorous birds.

There are times when supplementary food is used and the guidelines below are for images/footage taken of that supplemental feeding.

Examples below provide a guide as an example of the type of supplemental food that can be featured in images of wildlife in care or should be avoided:

- No macropods\*\* can be photographed eating any fruits or vegetables, including carrots and sweet potatoes as none is recommended when in captive care and sweet potato and carrot may be harmful for some macropods
- No wombats\*\*\* can be photographed eating any fruits or vegetables, including carrots and sweet potatoes as none is recommended when in captive care.
- Brushtail Possums can be photographed eating very small amounts of sweet potato and carrot there should be no food bowls piled high with fruit and vegetable mix.

- Flying-foxes can be photographed eating pears, apples, grapes, stone fruit, paw paw, melons (but not watermelon)
- Blue-tongue and Shinglebacks (adults not juveniles) can be photographed eating apples, pears, grapes, melons, mango, peas, carrots, pumpkin and leafy green vegetables
- Lorikeets can be photographed eating small amounts of apple, pear, mango and mandarin, ideally with wombaroo lorimix / nectar
- Honeyeaters, wattlebirds can be photographed being fed grapes, pear and mango ideally mixed with wombaroo lorimix / nectar
- Figbirds/Bowerbirds can be photographed eating corn on the cob, grapes, pea-corn mix, ideally mixed with wombaroo lorimix.
- Rosellas and finches can be photographed eating most fruit and Zebra and Red-browed finches can be given millet seed.
- Swans can be photographed being fed leafy vegetables and peas/corn floating in water.

---

**Notes:**

\* Soft toys are fine only for pouch bound koalas and 'momma rolls' for flying-foxes.

\*\*Macropods such as red kangaroos, eastern grey kangaroos and wallaroos are really prone to clostridial infection and they also have to develop a gut flora capable of digesting basically indigestible straw (native grasses) in often quite arid conditions. So the problem is two pronged in that feeding sweet potato encourages the development of the wrong kind of gut flora (unless they're given foregut contents and kept on native grasses prior to release so carers can be sure they'll gain weight on that poor diet).

Highly digestible carbohydrates not only encourage the wrong kind of gut flora to develop but, if exposed to clostridium (and it's ubiquitous in soil etc) they'll be more prone to succumbing to clostridial infection either in the form of bloat, sudden death or diarrhoea.

(<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/helping-wildlife-in-emergencies>)

\*\*\*Carers need to be sure they're avoiding anything high in oxalates and calcium in wombats.