

1.10 Feral Animals

Policy revised 4/93: 1.10.1 – 1.10.5 reviewed 6/2007

Introduction

- 1.10.1 Under Section 109 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974 it is an offence to release an introduced (exotic or introduced) animal, with the exception of a racing pigeon, which has been captive for any reason.
- 1.10.2 Many of our native species and the natural environment have been seriously affected by introduced animal species. Apart from any legal implications it would be irresponsible for a conservation organisation to condone or facilitate the release of such animals.
- 1.10.3 For the purpose of this policy the term “feral” animal includes any species, which is not native to Australia, including the Dingo (see policy 1.7).
- 1.10.4 Introduced feral species include, but are not limited to the following:

Mammals

Cat	Goat
Dog	Pig
Fox	Horse
Rabbit	Donkey
Hare	House Mouse
Ferret	Black Rat
Deer	Brown Rat
Sheep	Cattle

Birds

Indian Mynah	European Greenfinch
Black Bird	Spice Finch or Nutmeg Mannikin
Common Starling	House Sparrow
Skylark	Tree Sparrow
Red-whiskered Bul bul	European Goldfinch
Domestic or Rock (racing) Pigeon	Mallard Duck
Collard or Barbary Dove	Domestic Duck
Spotted Turtle Dove	

Policy (Feral Animals)

- 1.10.5 WIRES authorised Rehabilitators will not hand raise or rehabilitate for release any orphaned, sick or injured feral animal.
- 1.10.6 If WIRES receives a call to assist a feral animal in distress and the caller is unable to assist the animal, a WIRES volunteer Rescuer may be called. However, the caller should be provided with the basic first aid information and be encouraged to take the animal to their local vet, or to contact an animal welfare organisation such as the R.S.P.C.A. or the NSW Animal Welfare League.
- 1.10.7 It should be explained to the caller that WIRES is a voluntary animal welfare organisation, which is licenced to care for sick, injured and orphaned native fauna and does not generally have the ability to assist feral species. The caller may be interested to understand the reason that feral animals are not handled, but under no circumstances should a caller be lectured on the problems caused by feral animals, or to be told to put the animal down.