

1.11 Interstate Transport of Animals

Policy adopted 31/5/97: 1.11.1 – 1.11.4 reviewed 6/2007

Introduction

- 1.11.1 Section 126 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, provides that protected fauna may not be moved into or out of the State of New South Wales unless under circumstances and in accordance with a licence issued under that Section. Similar legislation is in force in most other Australian states and territories.
- 1.11.2 The Section 120 General Licence issued to WIRES by the National Parks and Wildlife Services permits persons authorised under that licence to be in possession of protected fauna within New South Wales only.

Policy

- 1.11.3 It is the responsibility of individual Rescuers and Rehabilitators to ensure, in the event that a protected animal is transported across state and territory borders, that the appropriate interstate movement licence or permit requirements are complied with. The possession in another state or territory of an animal which is held under the WIRES licence, but without the appropriate interstate movement licence or permit is an offence under that other state or territory fauna protection legislation.
- 1.11.4 The following example is provided to clarify how this policy shall be administered.

If you wish to take your kangaroo joey or possum on holiday with you to Queensland, you must apply for an Interstate Export Licence from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to take it to Queensland and an Interstate Import Licence to bring it back to this State. You must also apply for an Interstate Import Movement Permit from Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Services to take the animal into Queensland and another licence from that authority to take it back to New South Wales.

There is no guarantee that licences will be granted for rehabilitation animals. Some state and territory authorities are of the view that an animal, which is being transported around the country, is not undergoing appropriate rehabilitation. If caught in illegal possession of a protected animal the minimum penalty will likely be confiscation of the animal and a warning. Offenders of the wildlife protection laws can usually expect prosecution and a heavy fine as well as loss of the animal.

Administration

- 1.11.5 To facilitate the administration surrounding import/export licences the following benefits and conditions have been allowed–
 - a) A blanket annual licence to import protected fauna and a similar blanket annual licence to export protected fauna, for the purpose of rehabilitation and return to the encounter locality will be issued by the relevant district office for a period of one year from 1st October to 30th September to coincide with the period of licencing of the rehabilitation group;
 - b) Licence fees will be waived;
 - c) It will be the responsibility of the local licenced group or, in the case of

WIRES, the relevant branch to-

- Apply in September of each year to the relevant district office for annual import and export licences;
 - Maintain records of each cross-border movements; and
 - Submit details in writing of each cross-border movement to the relevant district office of NPWS whenever requested and on expiry of each licence;
- d) This applies to NSW, but the legal requirements of the other states must also be complied with.