

1.15 Permanent Care Animals

Policy proposed June 14 2008

This is to replace policy 1.15 adopted 22/10/1992

Adopted 25 October 2008

Introduction

1.15.1 Taken from DECC Rehabilitation of Protected Fauna Policy and associated licence conditions.

Policy

1.15.2 Only in exceptional circumstances will the NPWS permit a licensed rehabilitation organisation to permanently retain an unreleasable animal in captivity.

1.15.3 Approval may be granted only if the animal will serve as:

- an essential companion animal to others of its species which are undergoing rehabilitation,
- or will be used as an acceptable resource in a licensed exhibit,
- or an educational or scientific program approved and sanctioned by DECC.

1.15.4 Consideration will also be given to the granting of approval to retain some traditional aviary and caged birds, reptiles and frogs. The NPWS may place limitations on the numbers of such animals which may be held and specify conditions under which they should be held.

1.15.5 Except in the case of threatened species covered by a captive breeding and translocation approval, unreleasable fauna may not be retained for the purpose of captive breeding and release of progeny to the wild.

1.15.6 The NPWS will consider on its merits any application from a zoo or fauna park licensed under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act, 1986*, to recruit protected fauna which has been hand-raised or is undergoing rehabilitation, into the exhibition stock holdings of that park. Approval for the acquisition or retention of such an animal will be subject to the concurrent approval of the Registrar of the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act*.

Threatened Species

1.15.7 In some cases, it may be desirable to authorise the retention of some individual animals for educational or scientific purposes, including a translocation and captive breeding program for threatened species, in which case their progeny may be released in accordance with the approval.

1.15.8 The translocation proposal should address the handling and welfare of animals which cannot be released, and must comply with the NPWS policy on 'Translocation of Threatened Fauna in NSW'.

1.15.9 To further clarify this, condition 14 of all licences issued to NSW rehabilitators is as follows:

1.15.9.1 Condition 14. Fauna that cannot be returned to the wild under the terms of this licence may:

- a) In the case of species that are not listed on the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, be offered to a fauna park or zoo licensed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986, (Note: In such cases it is the responsibility of the fauna park or zoo to seek appropriate approvals from DECC and NSW Department of Primary Industries);
- b) In the case of species that are listed in the Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995, with the Department's prior written consent, be offered to a translocation project that includes captive breeding as part of its recovery approval or to an appropriate research project, or to a fauna park or zoo licensed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act, 1986;
- c) With the prior written consent of the licensing Division of the Department, be retained in permanent care by an appropriately and specifically authorised rehabilitator for the purpose of providing:
 - 1. An essential companion animal to others of its species that are undergoing rehabilitation; or
 - 2. An acceptable resource in an approved or scientific program
 - 3. Note: permanent care animals will be restricted to absolutely essential species and numbers and only in exceptional circumstances will the Department authorise the permanent retention of animals under this condition. Written proposals justifying the retention of animals on an individual basis must have the written endorsement of the licensee and be submitted to the licensing division of the Department where it will be considered on its merits. Except in the case of threatened species covered by a captive breeding and translocation approval, consent will not be given to retain animals for captive breeding and release of progeny.
- d) In the case of a bird of a species that is commonly kept as a pet, the Department will consider, on an individual basis, the granting of approval for its retention in captivity as a pet;
- e) In the case of an individual bird, reptile or amphibian that is originally encountered well outside of its natural range and cannot be released under condition 12 of this licence, the licensee should assume that the animal is an escaped pet, or has been inadvertently transported from its natural range, and arrange for the transfer of the animal to an appropriate animal keeping organisation where it may be passed to an appropriate person to keep it as a pet.