

1.17 Transfer of Animals

Policy revised 13/5/95: 1.17.1 – 1.17. 19

Policy reviewed and accepted as reviewed 12 July 2008

The full title of this policy is *Transfer of Animals between WIRES Branches, from WIRES to other Organisations and from other Organisations to WIRES*. LMST recommendation: Transfer between branches or other wildlife organisations approved and appended to this policy by WIRES State Council 16 October 2010.

Introduction

- 1.17.1 Animals which have already been registered with WIRES by way of the WIRES Animal Report Form or on the database are often transferred between branches and sometimes from the WIRES General Licence to other organisations for specialist care or permanent holding, or are transferred to WIRES General Licence for rehabilitation and release.
- 1.17.2 Each time an animal is moved within the WIRES system it is to be noted on the statistical returns. To ensure that WIRES animal data is accurate, it will be part of the database that transferred animals are identified as such to clarify any necessary duplication.

Policy

Transfers between WIRES Branches

- 1.17.3 All Branches shall use the WIRES approved Animal Report Form to ensure uniformity in the processing of animal statistics for reporting to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and incorporating the WIRES call number system. Providing the content is the same as the approved WIRES Animal Report Form (see policy 1.3 Use of the WIRES Animal Report Form), individual Branches shall be permitted to customize areas on the Animal Report Form pertinent to their Branch. The original Animal Report Form number allocated should always remain with the animal, regardless of the individual Branch recording system.
- 1.17.4 Sydney Branches shall use the Sydney Rescue Office for Animal Report Form registration.
- 1.17.5 Branches outside of Sydney Rescue Office use their own call numbering system, so they must ensure that the records of the two branches involved in an animal transfer clearly indicate that the animal has been transferred: that is, it must not be indicated as a new animal in the Branch receiving the animal from another Branch and both Branches must cross reference each other's Animal Report Forms.

- 1.17.6 When an animal is passed from one Branch to another, a copy of the Animal Report Form will accompany the animal.
- 1.17.7 Prior to an animal being transferred from one Branch to another, the consent of both Branch Coordinators is required.
- 1.17.8 When animals come into care (either initially, or transferred within the network or from outside the network), in a different region to that in which they originated, the Coordinator of the branch rehabilitating the animal shall contact the relevant Coordinator in the Branch in which the animal originated. This will alert the Branch of origin as to the number and species of animals in care outside their Branch, which may need to be returned.
- 1.17.9 When animals in care are present in a different Branch to that in which they originated, the Coordinator of the Branch rehabilitating the animal shall liaise with the relevant Branch Coordinator in the Branch from which the animal originated in order to plan a strategy for the animal's eventual release. This strategy will include details such as the release location, and the release of other suitable animals at the same time.
- 1.17.10 The Branch in which the release will occur shall be responsible for advising conditions pertinent to the release and any subsequent monitoring required.

Transfer from WIRES General Licence

- 1.17.11 The transfer of an animal to another organisation must be conducted in the same way as described above so as to ensure that the combined statistics of the organizations do not show unexplained duplications. The WIRES Animal Report Form will detail the reasons for the transfer and cross-reference to the other organization. Foster carers involved in animal transfers to other organizations should ask that they record the animal as a transfer from WIRES.
- 1.17.12 Reports to NPWS should reflect real numbers of animals cared for and avoid duplications caused by transfer.
- 1.17.13 Once an animal is under WIRES General Licence, WIRES has sole discretion as to that animal's rehabilitation and release. However it must be acknowledged that once an animal is transferred from WIRES General Licence, WIRES has no further control or interest in that animal. In these cases WIRES must be satisfied with the integrity of the future of the animal and its welfare if the transfer to another organization is to be acted upon.
- 1.17.14 Transfers to other organisations will be limited to the following areas:
 - Special care or skills required which are not available in the WIRES network

- Lack of available facilities or resources within the WIRES network
- Rare or endangered species breeding programs
- Permanent care as part of a rehabilitation program
- The Branch Coordinator consents to the transfer

1.17.15 It is an offence under the National Parks and Wildlife Act for WIRES to dispose of protected fauna to other than a licenced person.

Transfers from Another Organisation to WIRES General Licence

1.17.16 The transfer of an animal from another organization to WIRES must be handled in the same way as described in all the above to ensure that the combined statistics of the organisation do not show unexplained duplications in animal caring activities. The WIRES Animal Report Form will detail the reasons for the transfer and should make cross reference to the organisation from which the animal came. Foster Carers involved in the transfer should ensure that the WIRES Animal Report Form shows this detail.

1.17.17 Reports to NPWS should accurately reflect these transfers.

1.17.18 In general WIRES will accept transfers from other organisations, subject to the following:

- All NPWS directives concerning the animal have been met
- The animal is not subject to legal proceedings
- The animal is released solely into WIRES General Licence
- The Branch Coordinator consents to the transfer

1.17.19 Once an animal is transferred to WIRES General Licence, it will be subject to WIRES policies and WIRES has sole discretion as to the rehabilitation and release of that animal notwithstanding policy 1.18. Unwanted Animals.

TRANSFERS BETWEEN WIRES BRANCHES or OTHER WILDLIFE ORGANISATIONS

It is essential that a suitable release site is identified before committing any animal to rehabilitation. If branches do not have adequate pre-release or release sites available to them for the number of a particular species coming into care then the animal should be euthanased.

If a branch has both adequate pre-release and release sites available but not enough carers for younger joeys the LMST has no problem with these joeys being fostered outside of that branch as long as it remains within a suitable geographic distance from its origin. For example inland joeys should never be fostered by coastal branches as this could have a detrimental effect on the health of the animal when exposed to coastal parasites.

It is desirable but not always possible that a joey remain with one carer who is able to take it through to release, for this reason the LMST has guidelines in place for the transfer of joeys between carers.

- Joeys should never be transferred within the first 3 weeks in care.
- Joeys should be transferred prior to the stage of pouch emergence relative to that species; this enables the joey to maintain its sense of security within the familiar artificial pouch.
- The recipient of the joey must have the approved species training and adequate facilities to house several of the same species.
- Transferred animals should remain with that carer until release.
- Animals should be transferred using suitable transfer techniques for the species involved.

The LMST is committed to the preservation of genetic diversity, to conserve the unique genetic composition of different populations we must do everything we can to protect these genes within a species.

All animals must be released in accordance with NPWS/DECCW policy, until the recently circulated draft policy is adopted we are working on the 2002 version (reviewed in 2005) of the Rehabilitation of Fauna Policy. Branch Species Coordinators must follow WIRES Policy 1.17 Transfer of Animals, be guided by this document and the NPWS/DECCW Rehabilitation of Fauna Policy.

No animal should be transferred without the agreement of the species coordinators from the branches involved. All relevant information regarding the animal must be entered into the WIRES data base and kept up to date until the subsequent release of that animal.

Joeys raised outside of their area of origin **MUST** be registered with the branch covering their rescue site so that they can be factored in for allocation of release sites.