

1.18 Unwanted Pets

adopted 1/4/95: 1.18.1 – 1.18.5 reviewed and amended June 2008 listed for comment 17 July 2008 – adopted 5 September 2008 after review

The full title of this document is *Guidelines for Dealing with Native Animals that are Unwanted Pets*

Introduction

1.18.1 The Constitution of WIRES states (in part) –1.2 Objectives of the Association

The Association is formed with the object of:

- (a) rescuing and caring for sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife unable to fend for itself, with at all times the best interests of each individual animal placed first, with the object of returning the animal to the wild;
- (b) if the animal is unable to be rehabilitated to fend for itself and be returned to the wild:
 - (i) arranging permanent care in accordance with NPWS policy; or
 - (ii) where necessary, ensuring that euthanasia of the animal is effected in a humane manner; and
- (g) advising on the problems of unwanted wildlife bearing in mind the best interests of the animal and its habitat;

1.18.2 The principle objectives of WIRES are to rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife. Wildlife not able to be rehabilitated or released are either taken into permanent care or are euthanased. See policies 1.9 Euthanasia and 1.15 Permanent Care Animals

1.18.3 Native animals that are imprinted and unwanted and are handed in by persons outside the network do not fall within WIRES charter. They can rarely be successfully rehabilitated for release to the wild. WIRES does not have the resources to place these animals in long term care on the slender hope that they may be able to return to the wild.

1.18.4 Accordingly WIRES advises persons outside the network that it is neither WIRES role nor desire to attempt the rehabilitation or release of animals that have become imprinted or are unwanted pets. Those that enter the WIRES system will be dealt with according to the alternatives outlined above in 1.18.1 and any other relevant WIRES policies.

Each animal shall be individually assessed by the Branch to determine the rehabilitation prospects of such animals.