

1.27 WIRES Imping Policy

Draft Policy to Council July 2012 – approved at WSC meeting of 13 October 2012

Introduction

1.27.1 Imping, or “Implanting”, is a method of repairing broken or damaged feathers.

The procedure enables a bird to regain full feather function within 24 hours thereby facilitating early release, and minimal time in care.

It may replace the need for feathers to be pulled, which causes a bird pain, stress and potential blood loss.

POLICY

1.27.2 Each case to be considered for imping must be done in consultation with the Avian and/or Raptor Management Team (s)

1.27.3 Each imping procedure must be performed in consultation with, and under the supervision of, the Avian and/or Raptor Management Team(s) to ensure compliance with the policy, for the best possible outcome for the bird.

1.27.4 Imping is performed only on primary flight feathers (Remiges) and tail flight feathers (Rectrices). The secondary flight feathers and coverts on the wings, or coverts on the tail are not suitable to be impinged. **Blood feathers must never be impinged.**

1.27.5 A bird that is to have feathers impinged must be:

- Assessed by an experienced avian carer with proven imping success
- Assessed by a Veterinarian preferably with avian experience, who is willing to assist in the procedure.
- In good physical condition, i.e. not thin, malnourished, or diseased
- Free of or recovered from other injuries
- Already fledged, i.e. flying, pre-damage.
- Able to be placed in an appropriate flight facility when recovered

1.27.6 Replacement feathers **must** be:

- From the same species of bird
- From a similarly aged bird
- From a bird of similar weight
- From a disease free bird
- From a bird of the same sex, if known
- The exact matching number in placement on the wing or tail
- Clean and perfect
- Sourced in a timely manner

1.27.7 The procedure to be conducted under supervision of a Veterinarian:

- The exact damaged feathers on the bird are identified and numbered, measured, marked and photographed, while the bird is lightly anaesthetised*
- The replacement feathers are prepared with a suitable dowel, using an Epoxy glue, in the appropriate manner;
- Under anaesthetic the damaged feathers are separated and the shafts neatly cut with a suitable instrument without crushing, taking care to ensure all other feathers are kept perfect
- The prepared replacements are glued, with epoxy glue, into place with exact alignment
- The bird is subcutaneously rehydrated as required while under anaesthetic and recovered appropriately in a warm, quiet, dark environment

1.27.8 For rehabilitation, the bird must be:

- Housed singly in an appropriate sized flight facility for a minimum of 3 days
- Seen to have perfectly aligned feathers
- Flying strongly from ground to high perch
- Able to obtain its food appropriately
- Assessed by an Avian Vet and/or an experience carer endorsed by the Avian/Raptor Team.

1.27.9 The bird will be released as soon as it meets the criteria of 1.27.8

*The only exception to administering anaesthetic at this first stage may be if there are only one or two feathers needing replacement, and there are no vets within a reasonable travelling distance. The relevant Management Team must give specific written approval for this **exception** in advance.