

1.5 Collection of Animals in the Network

Policy approved 17/3/96: 1.5.1 – 1.5.11 reviewed 6/2007

Introduction

- 1.5.1 On many occasions there is a need to have animals collected from Rehabilitators within the organisation.
- 1.5.2 Animals, which are listed and numbered in the WIRES system, remain the responsibility of the organisation when the Rehabilitator caring for them is no longer authorised by WIRES.
- 1.5.3 WIRES has a responsibility to retrieve these animals and return them to an authorised Rehabilitator to complete their rehabilitation.
- 1.5.4 If there is a documented conflict and it is the considered opinion of both the Branch Animal Officer and the Branch Coordinator (or one other person nominated by the Branch Committee), that the animal's welfare is in jeopardy, then the animal shall be collected and placed with another Rehabilitator.

Policy

- 1.5.5 When a Rehabilitator's authorisation is not renewed the following steps must be taken:
 - a) The Branch Coordinator will contact the Rehabilitator and arrange a mutually convenient time for the animals in care to be collected, within seven (7) days.
 - b) If the collection is refused, the local district office of National Parks and Wildlife Service is to be notified that an unauthorised person is in possession of native fauna.
- 1.5.6 WIRES has a responsibility to ensure that animals in care are given the best treatment possible and moved through the rehabilitation process with the animal's best interests in mind. For the purpose of this policy rehabilitation includes the hand raising of orphaned animals.
- 1.5.7 If there is a need to progress the animal to the next stage of rehabilitation or to be buddied with another animal, the Branch Animal Officer/Coordinator will contact the Rehabilitator and arrange a mutually convenient time for the animal to be transported to the next facility or for the animal to be collected. Discussion and explanation should accompany the arrangements.
- 1.5.8 If the Rehabilitator does not agree to progress the animal, the following actions may be taken:
 - a) The Rehabilitator should be counselled regarding the best interests of the animal. A time frame of three (3) days should be given for the Rehabilitator to agree to the movement of the animal. If the Rehabilitator fails to move the animal, the Branch Committee should be notified and consider the suspension of the Rehabilitator's authorisation.
 - b) If the Branch Committee decides to suspend the Rehabilitator's authorisation, the Rehabilitator should be notified of the decision and further requested to move the animal. Movement of the animal will stay the suspension and allow further counselling on the policies of the Branch and WIRES.

Failing the transfer of the animal, official suspension will warrant notification to the local district of NPWS that the Rehabilitator is in unauthorised possession of protected fauna.

- 1.5.9 On occasion a Rehabilitator may move house and no longer be in the area covered by the Branch. If the distance is greater than the recommended area of release, the animal should remain in the branch area. If a Rehabilitator is moving closer to the area of release the animal may be moved with the Rehabilitator. If the Rehabilitator is moving within a region, the Branch Committee may decide to allow the animal to stay with the Rehabilitator.
- 1.5.10 If the Branch decides that the animal is to stay in the Branch area a time frame for transfer of the animal to another Rehabilitator should be arranged by the Branch Animal Officer/Coordinator so as not to adversely affect the animal's welfare.
- 1.5.11 If there is documented animal care conflict (please see policy 1.1. Animal Care Conflict) the appropriate action must be taken in order to ensure the animal's best interests are being served in the earliest possible time frame. If the Rehabilitator does not allow visits by the Branch Animal Officer/Coordinator relating to the animal care conflict issue, Rehabilitator should be counselled regarding possible suspension. Continued lack of cooperation will result in suspension and the local district office of NPWS should be notified of the unauthorised possession of native animal(s) by the Rehabilitator.