

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 12
September 2007

Keeping carers informed

Presented by



CONTACTING QWRC

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 488, ARCHERFIELD 4108

TELEPHONE:

Local contacts listed on page 8

EMAIL:

secretary@qwrc.org.au

WEBSITE:

www.qwrc.org.au

Please address all correspondence
to the Secretary.

In this issue:

- Carer Profiles
- Macropods & Dogs
- Q & A – QWRC Forums
- Cataract Survey
- Tammy's Tale
- ARAZPAQ
- RSPCA – 1300 ANIMAL
- Seizuring in Frogmouths
- Understanding Your Duty of Care
- Snakes Alive - Beware

PACIFIC BLACK DUCKLINGS

By Jacqui Webb



On the 10th April I received 8 Pacific Black Ducklings from Karensa (QPWS), Lindeman Island. Apparently the nest had been destroyed. They tried to reunite with Mum but she was not the least bit interested.

It was a real novelty to get these little guys in. I had cared for loads of Black ducks whilst in Adelaide, in fact every duck breeding season you could guarantee we would get quite a few into care. The mothers used to nest in suburbia, near peoples swimming pools! But that was 10 years ago. Here in the Whitsundays though we hardly ever saw these babies. I have only had two Black ducklings in care since moving here.

We set them up with a small cage inside, under a heat lamp for warmth at night and a feather duster hanging in the cage as substitute mum.

During the day they were placed outside on the grass to get lots of fresh air, sunshine and learn to hunt bugs. We fed them a mixture of chicken crumble/wombaroo insectivore mix/baby cereal/egg and

biscuit mix/calcium. This was supplemented with mealworms and beetles plus duck weed and chopped up spinach. They also had a shallow dish of water for bathing in which they took to 'like ducks to water'. They were very entertaining to watch. There seemed to be a leader who would always take the initiative to do something first, whether it was chasing a bug or having a bath. All the others would then follow suit. There was also one who was always very vocal and I soon learnt to stop rushing outside to see if there was something wrong.

These little guys thrived, growing very quickly, so it wasn't long before we had to erect a bigger enclosure for them and provide them with a baby bath, which they loved.

On May 24th they were nearly fully fledged, I would estimate only a few more days till they started flying. Janie, from QPWS, kindly organized a flight back to Lindeman Island and picked them up on her way to work. They were released that day on a big dam there, where the other Black ducks live.



Photos by Sandy Cleland & Janie White

RnR is produced by The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council twice a year. It is distributed (by request), free of charge, to all licensed wildlife rehabilitators throughout Queensland. To ensure you continue to receive a copy, either by post or email, please send your contact details to secretary@qwrc.org.au.



Help save a tree or two

Choose to have your RnR delivered electronically.
Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au.

Sponsored by



Wouldn't be without them

Production supported by



Illustrations by
Louise Saunders



From the Chair...

Well here we are again with the worst of the winter chills finally departing and the prospect of another joyous spring! Was that groans I heard? Yes, I know that Spring also brings the busiest time for all wildlife rehabilitators but lets hope that it also brings a better time for all wildlife. We hope that the effects of the drought have not been too great on the animals near you and that you do not get too busy over this “silly season”.

QWRC has been busy getting out there to meet with rehabilitators in two regions since our last edition and our third forum for this year is planned for October 21st in Rockhampton. We were surprised that the rehabbers who attended the Daisy Hill forum in April had been starved for news of QWRC and had little or no knowledge of why we were formed. There is now a copy of the “Wildlife Management Review Discussion Paper” available on our web site. If you have not read this document I feel certain that you will find the information it contains of interest. I would particularly like to direct you to pages 33 to 39 as these deal predominantly with wildlife rehabilitation issues. We received a few questions before the Daisy Hill forum. These questions and our replies to them appear in this issue of RnR.

QWRC is still endeavouring to form district committees of rehabilitator representatives as per our constitution. Unfortunately a lack of understanding about QWRC has made this really slow.

Please be assured that QWRC is **not** affiliated with any government department. We are a not for profit group of rehabilitators from across the State. Yes we have representatives from government departments on QWRC but only as representatives of the departments who issue our permits or who write the Acts we work under. **They do not run QWRC.**

As promised in our last issue QWRC is now able to accept submitted training packages for assessment against our minimum standards. QWRC is willing to advertise these endorsed training courses on our web site. So come on those of you who have spent hours and hours preparing training packages – submit them to QWRC for endorsement. You can be assured of our confidentiality. This is your chance to prove just how good your course really is! Trainers we look forward to receiving your submissions.

QWRC must hold elections in Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 this year. We are calling for nominations for representative in these districts. You will find a nomination form and full details on pages 9/10 of this issue.

We look forward to receiving lots of nominations. Remember to get those training packages in too.

Till next time. Cheers!

Annie

Education Research Information Education Research Information

www.aahc.au/pale - Animal Health Australia - if you notice any unusual disease symptoms, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths in wildlife, immediately call your veterinarian, stock inspector or Emergency Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

www.wildlifehealth.org.au/AWHN/home.aspx - national initiative of the Commonwealth Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests (DAFF). The Project is managed and funded by the DAFF Wildlife and Exotic Disease Preparedness Program (WEDPP).

www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com - includes Fauna First Aid sponsored by Australian Geographic Society.

www.fauna.org.au - database for carer groups

www.greypath.com/taxonomy - includes introductory course in wildlife care.

www.ozark.wild.net.au - wildlife carer information site

www.wildlifeprotect.org - sign up for weekly Wildlife Bytes newsletter.

EDITORIAL

You will notice that there have been a few changes in this edition. I am the recently appointed new editor so I hope you like them. I enjoyed the challenge that included learning Microsoft Publisher, a major computer crash which lost a hard drive, an external backup drive and a printer. That was followed by the death of our landline which left me without phone or email access to stories for several days at a crucial time. The joys of rural living!

I have included a couple of articles close to my heart. Read about my Redneck wallaby joey that developed cataracts. Also, the dreadful experience of a carer who describes what happened to a wallaby that had been allowed to become familiar with a dog.

Please, please send in some feedback as this is your newsletter.

Tell us what you would like to read about, give us your stories, your photos, your ideas. Deadline for the next issue is 15 January 2008.

Write to:

The Editor,
PO Box 488,
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108
Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au



Judy Elliott

CARER PROFILES



Identical twins Bridgette and Paula Powers became passionate about rescuing seabirds and other feathered friends when they helped an injured Pelican during a Sunshine Coast holiday seven years ago. They moved from New South Wales to Beerwah and set up the Marine Animals Rescue Service. They rehabilitate the injured birds in their backyard but are hoping to one day get a piece of land and create a specialist rehab centre for seabirds. These dedicated sisters have cared for Jabirus, Pelicans, Seagulls, Cormorants, Petrels, Albatross and many others. They go out and search for the injured birds or wait for call-outs from concerned members of the public. They are available 24/7 and so far this year, have not had a single day without a sick bird. Like most rehabilitators they are non-funded. Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital is close-by to attend to the injured birds for which they are eternally grateful. Gail Gipp is always very helpful and willing to answer their questions.

'Letters to the Editor'



We want this space to expand to fill with all your 'Letters to the Editor'. Letters must be 500 words or less. Please include full name, address and contact details. Send to address details as above.

THANK YOU

The QWRC team would like to sincerely thank Deborah Turnbull for producing the last three issues of RnR. A job well done, many thanks Deb. Deborah has resigned due to other commitments.



KNOW THY ACRONYM

- ARAZPQ - Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria
- IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare
- SEQWR - Southeast Queensland Wildlife Rescue

VACANCY

Grants Officer

The Grants Officer will assist the Treasurer with seeking out and applying for grants. QWRC is a not-for-profit community group and would like to achieve more but lack of funding is a constant problem. We receive no government funding. **Is there someone out there who would like to assist us in achieving our goals?** Experience with grant applications is preferred but not necessary. If you are interested, please contact the Treasurer, Vicky Dawson. Home ph: 3200 0592 - Email: vicky@rockpress.com.au

Questions and Answers from the QWRC Forums

In the last issue of RnR we advised of upcoming forums to be held in the three regions of the State. Readers were asked to submit their questions to QWRC prior to the forums. The following questions were received prior to the forum in Brisbane.

Q With the new minimum housing standards listed for each species (June 2006 Code of Practice), would you please advise how existing carers are required to meet the minimum housing standards and who, if anyone, is going to enforce the legislation... especially with 'Independent Carers'? I have been advised by Rangers at Daisy Hill that, to care for any Koalas (only joeys) I have to have 40 sq metres of 'approved enclosure'. Does this mean that all carers to be accredited to care for infant Koala Joeys have to have a 40 sq metre enclosure (independent as well as a group member)?

Will Daisy Hill and Moggill Koala Hospital, as well as any Ranger that raises koala joeys, have this size enclosure for EACH koala in care as per the Code of Practice?

A It is the understanding of QWRC that the table at the end of the COP for cage and enclosure sizes came from the Victorian COP. We acknowledge that some of these sizes are not appropriate and to this end we have set up a sub committee to look at what changes should be suggested for the code. You will note that I have said suggested. QWRC is not able to make the changes to the code but our suggestions do carry weight with the "powers that be". If you have any points or areas of concern about the COP please send an email to secretary@qwrc.org.au (deadline 30 November) explaining the changes you suggest and the reason why you believe those changes are necessary so these can be passed on to the sub committee. Be sure to use the paragraph numbers from the code so that we know exactly what you are referring to.

Q By whom, or where and when, are 'approved accreditation courses' held to meet the Code of Practice minimum training annually? It is now almost 12 months since the new Code of Practice has come in and I have not been notified of any training for independent carers to meet the education necessary to stay accredited. Therefore most independent (as well as some carers that are members of groups) have not undertaken the essential annual training for each species that they care for; how is this going to be rectified?

A Currently there are not any "Approved Accreditation Courses" to our knowledge. QWRC has written a document setting down the minimum standards we believe that all courses for the rehabilitation of mammals should meet. We have asked for all course presenters to submit their courses to

QWRC so they can be assessed according to these minimum standards like the heart foundation tick. This approval will remain current for three years. With the permission of the course presenters the dates for these approved courses will be listed on the QWRC web site.

Q One question I have been interested in since I have been rehabilitating is: Are there any plans for our financial outlays to be addressed, even a tax deduction on this would benefit most rehabilitators. Members of the public are appalled when they realise that we don't get paid or even compensated for the equipment and milk we use.

A It is an unfortunate fact that to date this issue has not been addressed. We have investigated ways of applying for grants or setting up trust funds to allow rehabbers to be reimbursed in some way for the large sums of money they expend each year. The biggest stumbling block we face is finding a fair and equitable means of distributing the funds and doing so without us having any fulltime "staff" to do the task. We will look into the possibility of the ATO being asked to offer tax breaks to rehabilitators.

Q I have one issue that is causing unrest within our group, SEQWR, at the moment. Item no 5.2 on the Code of Practice; Keeping of Animals. The code states "5 animals", is that intended to include birds?

A Each person or group holding a rehabilitation permit will find it shows the number of animals or birds that person or group is allowed to care for at any time. It is noted that local council laws take precedence over any permit or code. If for example you live in a multi-story housing apartment it would be totally inappropriate for you to rehabilitate any animals let alone 5 of them. The end of this point does go on to state that this excludes the holding of social or gregarious species or those at a pre release site.

QWRC WILDLIFE FORUM

The next QWRC Wildlife Forum is on Sunday 21 October 1-4pm at the DPI Conference Centre, cnr Bruce Highway & Yeppoon Road, Rockhampton.

Macropods and Dogs - a Disastrous Combination

by Madonna O'Brien

My husband and I have been wildlife carers now for about 12 years. In that time we have successfully reared and released a great number of orphaned animals of many and varied species. We are puritanical in our approach in that we believe that wildlife and domestic animals do not mix and as such we have no domestic animals on our property. Not only can wildlife contract diseases from domestic animals (eg. toxoplasmosis from cats), but we believe it minimises their chances of survival in the wild. We have experienced this first hand. About two years ago a juvenile Red-necked wallaby was brought to us for a soft release. This wallaby had been reared in isolation (which is another issue) and it had also been reared around a Cattle dog. The people assured us that they had kept the wallaby 'away' from the dog. It took us quite a while before we could actually start the release process because we had to socialise him with other wallabies so he knew what he was. About two weeks after we had started the release, a neighbour's Cattle dog came onto our property chasing all our released animals. All our wallabies scattered, except for the one that had been reared around a dog. The dog grabbed him and broke his leg. We were then faced with the prospect of what to do. Do we put him down or can it be successfully fixed without any suffering to the wallaby.



Russell - fully recovered

We took him to our local vets who x-rayed his leg and they were confident it could be fixed successfully, however it was a specialist job because of the break.

To cut a long story short, we decided to have the surgery done because the success rate was good and the fact that he had been reared in isolation meant that he had bonded very closely with humans and did not stress as much as other wallabies might. He was operated on by a veterinary orthopaedic surgeon and it was a success! After the bone had knitted the plate and screws had to be taken out of his leg so he could be released. The whole ordeal took about three months in total, cost a great deal of money but he was successfully released and he now has a healthy fear of dogs. We still occasionally see him.

I also know of a carer in my area that reared a Red-necked wallaby with her Staffy dog thinking it was cute how they played together. Since this wallaby has been released I have had reports from her neighbours that it turns up on their properties to play with their dogs. This is disastrous as it is only a matter of time before this animal is torn apart by either wild dogs or dingoes.

The point I am making is that even if a macropod is kept 'away' from a dog, they still get used to the sounds and smells of dogs which makes them vulnerable when released.

DO YOU HAVE A PET HATE OR SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

DOGS - DOGS - DOGS - DOGS - DOGS why do so many carers have dogs?

All rehabilitators should have a copy of the Code of Practice and perhaps all should read the following sections: 1.8 - 3.2 - 9.1 - 11.1 - 11.5 - 17.1 g&i.

Anyone who keeps their macropods with their dogs should be ashamed of themselves. The above story speaks for itself. We can only ever give our critters a second chance at life and there are so many things that their mother would teach them that we can't. A joey can give a lot of pleasure but please don't risk it being torn to pieces by predators when released.

Editor

MOVING HOUSE
or changing your
email address



Remember to advise
QWRC

Cataract Survey

by Margaret Lamer

Cataracts in Joeys raised from Unfurred

Over the past 5 years there has been an increase in the occurrence of bilateral cataracts in joeys that have been raised from unfurred with eyes closed to just opening. I have been conducting a Cataract Survey to collate information from carers who have experienced their joeys going blind.

Prior to the mid '80's cataracts were attributed to lactose intolerance. Since then two formulas have been available to carers, both following the normal growth requirements of marsupials.

These formulas have been on the market for 15 years and have greatly improved the growth and nutrition of hand raised kangaroos and wallabies. The question is: Why are these cataracts occurring now and why the rapid onset when starting to graze?

My research to date has shown:

- Male Agile Wallabies are the most common marsupial affected. Usually raised from under 1kg.
- Grey Kangaroos raised from below 500gms
- Wallabies raised from below 200 gms with the Tammar being the most commonly affected..
- Red necked wallabies and Swamp wallabies
- One Euro has been noted at this stage with no incidences in Red Kangaroos.

The survey has identified the following pre-disposing factors:

- Severe immaturity.
- Dehydration usually only mild
- Too warm but not necessarily above recommended levels.
- Poor Maternal nutrition - severe drought affected areas.
- Trauma.

At this stage recommendations are:

- Keep joeys just warm to touch.
- Lightly moisturise skin and maintain a humid environment.
- Apply an antibiotic ointment for 5 days when first orphaned then Lacrilube ointment until furred. This will reduce inflammation and maintain hydration to the eyes.
- Add Megaderm or fishoil to formula.
- Add Aminolite - 1ml daily when commencing grazing.



It has been suggested by several Vets that the cause is a micronutrient deficiency when changing from milk to solids

I would like to thank all the carers who have helped in this survey, without their help solving this condition would be impossible. We are only scratching at the surface at this stage but everything helps. Professional involvement and financial assistance would achieve more. We are fortunate to have interested vets on board to assist with this project.

If you would like to complete a Cataract Survey Form please checkout www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com under 'latest news'.

Margaret may be contacted by email: pellicans@bigpond.com. (double 'l' is correct!).

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council acknowledges that all restricted medications should only be administered under the direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon. For further information see Health (Drugs and poisons) Regulation 1996. <<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/>>

Tammy's Tale

by the Editor

Tammy was a 400gm furless Redneck wallaby joey when rescued in April last year and was doing really well until her eyes started to go cloudy in August. She was fully furred and hopping around outside by then. There is no known reason for cataracts developing but it is thought that being dehydrated or overheated when young may be a problem. Different milk formulas have also been suspected. There is a carer in WA doing some research into this at the moment (refer to article on page 6).



The people who rescued Tammy did a fantastic job and took the dead mother's body home when they realised there was a tiny joey in the pouch. They also tried to keep the joey warm by putting a hot water bottle on the pouch of the dead mother. Unfortunately it should have been just luke warm water not hot. When I removed the joey from the pouch she was really hot. I do not blame the rescuers as they were only trying to help.

I gave her oral Vitamin E twice a day when the cataracts appeared in the hope that it might restore her sight as apparently this does work sometimes. I had plans to give it until Christmas and then have her euthanased if it hadn't worked.

Christmas came and went but, of course, she is such a lovely little wallaby that I could not do it! She was really healthy and dashed around the enclosure, hopping over logs and rarely bumped into things (except wheelbarrows or watering cans that I'd left outside!). I think she must have remembered the layout from when she was younger and before she went blind.



Tammy with cataracts

I then heard about a vet, Anna Deykin at the Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre (3264 9400) who was prepared to operate to remove the cataracts. I waited anxiously for news after the operation and was very relieved to hear that it had been successful. I had realised that she would have to be euthanased if she had remained blind.

Tammy's eyesight can never be perfect again but she no longer bumps into things and is even confident enough to do 'the mad dash around' sometimes which is wonderful to watch. She is due to be released onto our property in a few weeks. Anna, the vet, is a lovely lady and is happy to talk to any carer about the cataract surgery.



Tammy - ready for release

HINTS & TIPS (for carers – from carers)

Send your favourites to The Editor, PO Box 488 ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

Hints and tips must be 150 words or less. Your full name, address and contact details must be included.

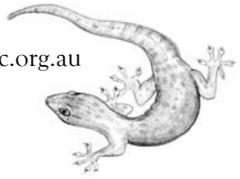
WHO AM I ?



The winner will receive 12 months membership to the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Send your answers to:
The Secretary
PO Box 488
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

OR: secretary@qwrc.org.au



"I'm so glad Mum said I wouldn't have to fly very high!"

Contact your local rep.

District 1 – Cape York/Dry Tropics/Gulf
Penny Johnson
Phone: 4069 6229
Email: bartsbush@bigpond.com

District 3 – Savannah/Townsville Marine
Eleanor Pollock
Phone: 4779 7708
Email: nell194@bigpond.net.au

District 4
Jacqui Webb – Mackay/Whitsundays
Phone: 4947 3308
Email: jacquiandtony@wilpat.com.au

District 5 – Capricorn/Gladstone
Annie Saunders
Phone: 4975 6281
Email: annie.saunders@bigpond.com

District 7 – Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy
Judy Elliott
Phone: 4156 5382
Email: judyell2002@yahoo.co.uk

District 9 – Toowoomba
Trish Lee Hong
Phone: 4630 5208
Email: trishleehong@hotmail.com

District 10 – Sunshine Coast/Southern Marine
Glendell Appleford
Phone: 5426 7879
Email: glendell@iprimus.com.au

District 11 – Southeast/Moreton Bay
Vicky Dawson
Phone: 3200 0592
Email: vicky@rockpress.com.au

Elections

In compliance with our constitution QWRC is calling for nominations for representatives from district 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. On page 9 and 10 of this issue you will find a description of where these districts are, a list of the criteria representatives must address and a nomination form. Nomination forms are to be posted back to the secretary by 17th of October. Appropriate ballot papers will be sent to all financial QWRC members in the relevant districts by 24th October. To be valid the completed ballot papers must be returned to QWRC by Wednesday 21st November. Successful nominees will be notified by the end of November. The results will be posted on our web site and all QWRC members will be notified of the results of these elections in the members' newsletter. **We look forward to receiving lots of nominations from these districts.**

Remember that elections in districts 1, 3, 5,7, 9, and 11 will take place late next year.



RnR is printed on recycled paper

Knowing me... .. Knowing you... ..

Now that you all know who we are - we would love to know who you are ?????

QWRC represents all licensed rehabilitators in Queensland but, because of the Privacy Act we are not able access your contact details via the government. **THIS WILL BE THE LAST RnR YOU RECEIVE if you are not on QWRC's mailing list.** You will only be on QWRC's mailing list if you are a QWRC member or your group has given us your details. So please contact us with your details so that we know who you are and where you are in Queensland and we can continue to send you RnR.

QWRC REGIONAL DISTRICTS



The state of Queensland has been divided into three (3) regions, being the Northern, Central and Southern, to reflect the QPWS Regions.

Each region is divided into districts.

The Northern Region encompasses three (3) districts.

District one (1) is Cape York, the Dry Tropics and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

District two (2) is the Wet Tropics and Cairns Marine.

District three (3) covers the Savannah and Townsville Marine.

The Central Region encompasses three (3) districts.

District four (4) covers Mackay and the Whitsundays.

District five (5) is Capricornia and Gladstone.

District six (6) covers the Longreach area.

The Southern Region encompasses five (5) districts.

District seven (7) covers Wide Bay Burnett /Great Sandy.

District eight (8) covers the South West.

District nine (9) covers the area including Toowoomba.

District ten (10) is the Sunshine Coast /Southern Marine.

District eleven (11) covers the South East / Moreton Bay.

Schedule 1 – QWRC Criteria for Representatives

The success of the QWRC structure is reliant on the participation of its members.

All nominees for shire representatives and any consequent position within QWRC, must address the following criteria:

- a) nominees must be QWRC members;
- b) be a resident of the shire/district for which they are nominating;
- c) be available to sit on a committee at least four (4) times a year in their own district;
- d) have good communication skills to enable them to liaise between the rehabilitators in their shire, and the district committee;
- e) must, if elected as chairperson of the district committee, be available to sit on the QWRC in Brisbane at least six (6) times per year;
- f) understand that the position is voluntary and unpaid;

NOMINATION FORM - QWRC SHIRE REPRESENTATIVES

Name of Applicant.....Date of Birth.....

Residential address.....

Postal address.....

Telephone (H)..... (W)..... (Mob)

Email address.....

Permit or Group registration details

(Please attach a copy of current relevant permit)

Names and addresses of two (2) licensed rehabilitators endorsing this nomination

NameDate of Birth.....

Residential address.....

Postal address.....

Telephone (H)..... (W)..... (Mob).....

Email address.....

Permit or Group registration details

(Please attach a copy of current relevant permit)

Signature.....

NameDate of Birth.....

Residential address.....

Postal address.....

Telephone (H)..... (W)..... (Mob).....

Email address.....

Permit or Group registration details

(Please attach a copy of current relevant permit)

Signature.....

Please write a **short paragraph** about yourself stating why you believe that you should be considered to act as the shire representative for your shire with reference to Schedule 1 (attached). This information may be provided to interested persons for election purposes.

Please state if you are interested in standing for the position of district chairperson, and why.

(Attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Signature.....Date.....

The Wildlife Vet

Seizuring in Tawny frogmouths

Seizuring in Tawny frogmouths may be caused by a number of factors. However, the most common is poisoning. In the urban environment frogmouths are commonly exposed to insects that have been sprayed with insecticides. As they consume these insects, the toxins, which are fat soluble, build up over time in the bird's fat deposits. When food becomes scarce



they lose weight and the stored toxins are released into the bird's system. If the toxin levels are high enough this may result in the bird seizuring.

Usually frogmouths suffering from this form of poisoning become incapacitated and people who find them will report that "it was just sitting on the ground in the garden" and "it wouldn't fly away when approached". The bird may appear alert and on further examination there are usually no other problems/symptoms to be observed. Seizuring may not be observed until later when the bird becomes stressed through activities such as handling or a trip in the car. Seizuring may look different in different birds. However, a seizuring bird will usually become very rigid, stretch its head backwards and its tail in the air. Often they will also stretch out their wings and flap uncontrollably. Their eyes may be closed or their pupils may roll up and backwards and many birds will vocalize.

A seizure is an emergency and the bird will need to be seen by a vet as soon as possible. If a seizure is observed it is important to try and snap the bird out of it – try to make the bird aware of its environment. This can be done by quite vigorously tapping it on the area between the eyes and the beak and speaking to the bird loudly. Once a seizure

has occurred, the bird will require a dose of valium (valium hampers seizuring). The dose for an adult frogmouth is 0.04ml and is given into the chest muscle. If the bird seizes again, an additional shot of valium should be considered. Otherwise the bird should be treated with valium every 8 hours for a further 2 shots. When the bird has settled from the first shot it should be given about 10ml of warmed Hartmann's solution under the skin. This should be continued for the next 12 hours (this will effectively flush the toxins from the bird's system and provide some extra calcium). During treatment at the vet surgery, the bird will need to be kept warm with some form of external heat (a heated hospital cage, heat lamp or a heatpad).

Once the bird has completed treatment, it should be placed in care for observation for a further 24 to 48 hours.

Photo by Donna Anthony

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council acknowledges that all restricted medications should only be administered under the direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon. For further information see Health (Drugs and poisons) Regulation 1996. <<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/>>

The Way Forward is Together

As a representative for the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPAQ) on the QWRC, I'd like to take the opportunity to provide you with information about our Association. ARAZPAQ was originally set up for zoos, wildlife parks and aquaria individuals from institutions for many of the same reasons that QWRC has been established. It became apparent that there were many differing opinions within the zoological industry but individuals realised that if we could all combine, collate and evaluate 'industry issues' as a group, we would have not only a far stronger voice but also a much better chance of being taken seriously by government authorities under which wildlife parks operate.

I must admit that in the beginning there was a lot of uncertainty and caution displayed however membership did grow and after a very short period the affect of a united force was evident. QPWS, DNR, DPI and AQIS began to come to the Association for suggestions to issues that previously may have ended with neither party 'winning'. It has led to discussions, workshops and improvements to some of the difficulties individuals often experience when working with government departments - the main issue often being that of parity for resolution of potential issues.

To date ARAZPAQ has a close affiliation with all of the major government departments under which we operate. Most recently noted is the restructure and development of Biosecurity Queensland where ARAZPAQ, as an industry representative, has been invited to forums involving the Minister. In addition to this, ARAZPAQ have also been able to establish meetings to discuss specific concerns that we have with the current system so as these may be considered as the legislation is reviewed in the coming 12 months.

Historically the zoo industry was overlooked and institutions did not find out what changes had occurred until they next dealt with the relevant department.

Why would the Zoo Industry be interested in QWRC?

As facilities with exhibitor licenses we are now automatically able to care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife with the aim of rehabilitation (one of the issues we were able to establish with QPWS - previously we required two separate licenses). Many 'zoo keepers' are also wildlife rehabilitators and when keeping wildlife there are obvious similarities involved. To ensure consistency across wildlife rehabilitation within Qld it seemed appropriate that wildlife parks be involved so as to ensure networking can flow across fields as well as within. We can all learn from each other and ultimately that results in better care for wildlife and better education for the public. Remember wildlife parks are often the first port of call for the public should they find injured wildlife. Australia wide, more than 14 million people visit zoos and wildlife parks annually. ARAZPAQ members can provide the perfect vehicle through which to carry wildlife messages.

Creating an industry body, with input from those areas by which you are closely affiliated, is the best manner in which to improve communications. I am sure you are all aware that 99% of the time an issue arises it is due to communication difficulties. I am not suggesting that the development of QWRC is the answer to every problem nor that on any point will every person involved agree on all issues. It does however open opportunity for discussion and transfer of information which in the end can only benefit the animals we all care so much about and are responsible for.

Kelsey Mostyn
Vice-President, ARAZPAQ



RnR MAILING LIST



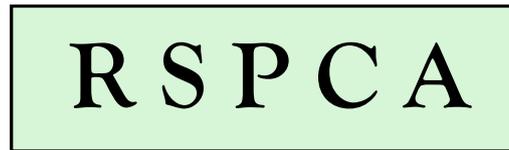
THIS WILL BE THE LAST RnR YOU RECEIVE UNLESS:

- You are a member of QWRC**
- Your carer group has given us your details**
- You have given us your details**

Send your details to: The Secretary,
PO Box 488, ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

OR secretary@qwrc.org.au

Electronic copies are sent prior to posted copies and are in full colour.



1300 ANIMAL (264 625)

Objective:

To centralise, simplify and expediate the reporting and rescue of animals who are injured on the road. The RSPCA is the central contact point who will then use its database to contact the nearest wildlife carer / rescuer / group in the area.

The launch of the 1300 ANIMAL telephone number last August marked the end of a four year battle with bureaucracy by RSPCA Queensland.

“We originally thought it was a simple common sense approach to centralise and simplify the reporting of injured animals,” said RSPCA Qld CEO Mark Townend. “Little did we realise that it would be a three year battle to get legislation changed in the Senate to actually be allowed to use the number! Then we had to get the wording and design of road signs approved by the Main Roads Department of the State Government”

We want people to call 1300 ANIMAL (264 625) to report an injured animal. The call centre, which will be resourced by the RSPCA, will then direct the call to the nearest wildlife carer or rescuer in the area. Calls reporting domestic animals will be connected to the nearest council officers or RSPCA ambulance.

“People are understandably frustrated when they try to get help for injured wildlife,” continued Mr Townend. “They simply don’t know who to call and can often spend half an hour calling different agencies before they receive assistance. With 1300 ANIMAL we effectively act as a central contact point and then, through our data base, contact the closest carer in the area.”

1300 ANIMAL was initially trialled during Cyclone Larry in North Queensland and signs are starting to be erected in SE Qld.

“Signs will be gradually rolled out by the State Government and will eventually be Statewide and hopefully Nationwide. It’s simple common sense but it could make a real difference **It’s also yet another example of a Queensland initiative that will eventually go national.**”

1300 ANIMAL

WE NEED YOUR HELP

More than just a phone number.....

Currently the RSPCA and QWRC are gathering “up” information from potential contacts for inclusion in the database – please forward any of these to QWRC or RSPCA Qld.

The database Shelterbuddy can search for individual rescuers or carers by species and suburb.

The call-center operator enters the species and suburb on a search page and telephones a carer or rescuer directly whilst the complainant is on hold. With the carers permission the complainant is connected directly.

For further information or to complete an authorisation form visit the website — www.rspca.com or contact the RSPCA.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR DUTY OF CARE

The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACPA) is Queensland's animal welfare legislation. The ACPA places a *Duty of Care* obligation on the *Person in charge* of an *animal*. Having this Duty of Care obligation means you are legally obliged to care for it by providing for its needs in a reasonable way.

Who does the Duty of Care apply to?

The Duty of Care applies only to a person in charge of an animal. The ACPA clarifies this by defining a person in charge as a person who:

- owns or has a lease, licence or other proprietary interest in the animal; or
- has the custody of the animal (which includes the care or control of the animal); or
- employs, or engages someone else who has custody of the animal and the custody is within the scope of the employment or engagement.

In regard to wildlife this generally means, owners, animal carers, wildlife park operators and staff, zookeepers concerned with keeping, caring or exhibiting wildlife.

What does the person in charge have to do?

The Duty of Care obligation is based on the internationally recognised 'Five Freedoms' of animal welfare. To fulfil their Duty of Care to the animal they are in charge of, a person must take reasonable steps to provide for the animal's needs in a way that is appropriate. This means appropriately:

- providing feed and water
- providing accommodation or living conditions for the animal
- allowing the animal to display normal patterns of behaviour
- treating disease or injury
- handling the animal.

In deciding what is 'appropriate', regard must be given to:

- the species, environment, and circumstances of the animal and
- what steps a reasonable person would take in the circumstances.

The *Code of Practice – Care and rehabilitation of orphaned, sick or injured protected animals by wildlife care volunteers* is a useful guide to fulfilling your duty of care

Animals covered by the Duty of care

The animals covered by the ACPA and the Duty of Care are all live vertebrate animals except humans, that is, all mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Cephalopod invertebrates such as octopus, squid, cuttlefish and nautilus are also included as animals

Find out more

For more information you may wish to visit <http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/animalwelfare> or call 132523

WHY NOT JOIN US?

If you wish to become a member of QWRC, contact your local QWRC representative, make further enquiries about QWRC or raise further issues relating to wildlife rehabilitation, please contact the Secretary at PO Box 488 ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership of the State representative body.

A collective voice for rehabilitation.

Access to a network of carers across the State.

Financial membership offers cover under QWRC's Public Liability and Volunteer Workers Insurance policies.

Support with wildlife rehabilitation and welfare.

Access to QWRC endorsed training courses.

Access to professional advice, information and data.

Access to Best Practice Guidelines.

Members will receive a twice yearly newsletter (in-between issues of RnR). Members are eligible to nominate for a position as district representative on QWRC and to vote at elections.

As a member you will also help to build a strong council that will be able to better support its members, and advocate on their behalf.



Membership Application Form



Post to:
The Secretary
PO Box 488
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

Please complete all details

Surname.....

First Name

Date of Birth

Residential Address.....

Postal address.....

SHIRE in which you reside

Telephone (H)(Mob).....

(W).....

Email

Group Name

I, the above named, understand and agree that my name and contact details will be stored on a member data base by QWRC for its use and may be circulated to all other members of QWRC around the state.

I further understand that these details will not be sold for any purpose.

Signed..... Dated.....

Annual Membership AU\$20 (per financial year)

Payment options

I enclose cheque / money order for \$..... made payable to QWRC.

OR

Direct Deposit to the QWRC bank account at Credit Union Australia

BSB No 804 050 Account No 30644404

Please use your surname as a reference number for this transaction

**Be unstoppable.
Upgrade to Ultra Care.**

**RACQ
ULTRA CARE**

Whether it's work, family, trips away or anything else in your busy life, you need to be unstoppable. Knowing that you can call on a long list of added benefits after a breakdown gives you real peace of mind. Ultra Care offers the best outcome in even the worst situations. Call 13 1905 or visit your local RACQ office to upgrade today.
www.racq.com.au

FUEL LOCKSMITH TAXI CAR HIRE ACCOMMODATION TOWING

LIMITS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

SNAKES ALIVE - BEWARE

How many of us have checked a cage in the morning only to find a big fat Carpet snake with our critter missing? Snakes can squeeze through the smallest gaps but can swallow the most enormous prey!



www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/wildlife/caring_for_wildlife/carers_kit

FOR INFO ON SNAKE-PROOFING AVIARIES

"I think I'll start from this end"



"Gosh – this is a bit of a mouth-full!"

"One more gulp should do it"

I saw this one evening and decided to grab my camera.

Always ensure that all cages and aviaries are totally snake-proof.

Editor

Opinions expressed in RnR are not necessarily those of the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

Copyright – Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council 2007

Have a look at www.racq.com.au - it's highly recommended.

If undeliverable return to
Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 488
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

**PRINT
POST**
PP 424022/1941

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**