

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 14
September 2008

Keeping carers informed

Presented by



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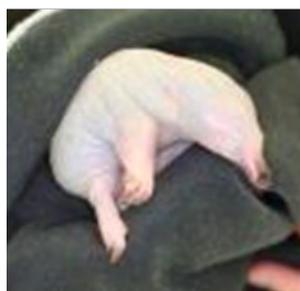
www.qwrc.org.au

Please address all correspondence
to the Secretary.

ICE PACK RESCUE OF P4

Picking up a puggle (*Echidna young*) always fills me with mixed emotions, sadness for the loss of a mother and excitement for the opportunity to rear such a unique animal.

The mother had been hit by a car and the puggle was still in the pouch at the vet clinic. I picked up the puggle at 7.30am on 17 October and, after a quick look to make sure no immediate attention was required, I put it into a six pack esky lined with a



P4 - early November 2007

cushioning towel. An ice pack, also wrapped in toweling was placed at one end to keep the esky temperature below 28C, and I headed off to Uni. I am always careful to declare live animals when entering any facilities (for health and safety regulations as well as the animals safety) informing the staff that the animal needed to be

maintained at constant low temperature and if it was not permitted within the facility the procedures for the day would have to be cancelled. Being a highly specialised facility I was surprised to get the OK, having prepared for the day for some months it would have been inconvenient to say the least to have gone home but I would have done so.

The puggle (named P4) remained undisturbed in the esky till 8pm that night when I assessed its age at 20-25 days. Just skin, eyes were dark dots under layers of skin with no eye lids forming yet and no sign of ears.

Continuedpage 4

In this issue:

- P4 puggle
- Carer Profile
- Wildlife Land Trust
- Roo Rescue Gone Bad
- Wildlife Vet - Hydatid disease
- RSPCA
- Roadkill Survey
- Carer Hints & Tips
- Membership Special

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.



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Illustrations by
Louise Saunders



From the Chair..

What glorious winter weather! I know it can get cold at night but the days are really lovely aren't they? I hope you are all able to get some rest during a time that can be quiet (sorry! I know this is one word we should never say) for those who spend so much of their lives busy with the care of sick, injured and orphaned native animals.

QWRC has recently held **elections** in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. It was great to receive 3 nominations in district 11; one from the Gold Coast and 2 from Logan Shire. I am pleased to advise that Vicky Dawson was re-elected as the rep for Logan and the chair of that District Committee. With just one nomination received in each of the other districts (the sitting rep) each of those nominees were elected outright. It is exciting having the basis of our District Committees and we look forward to these continuing to grow. Remember we still have **vacancies** for District Representatives from District 1 (Cairns area), District 6 (Longreach area) and District 8 (Roma area). Any person who would like to be more involved with QWRC's vital work within the rehabilitation industry can contact their local representative or the council through secretary@qwrc.org.au.

We are thrilled to advise that we have endorsed three **training packages** with several more currently undergoing evaluation. We continue to encourage all trainers to submit their training packages for endorsement. This endorsement allows attendees the confidence that the training they attend meets the minimum standards necessary for best practice wildlife rehabilitation. We look forward, with the trainer's assistance, to publishing the presentation dates and times of these endorsed packages both in RnR and on our web site.

QWRC is continuing to work with the EPA/QPWS and the QHD to clarify and improve both the conditions for **Flying fox** rehabilitation and their management. Several issues are under consideration including the relationships between Flying foxes and fruit farmers/orchardist, the handling of injured Flying foxes by both rescuers/rehabbers and veterinary staff and the costs and availability of vaccinations.

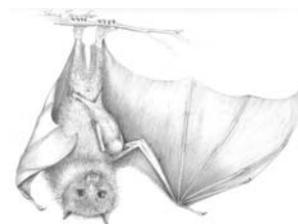
It is wonderful to see our **Web Site** continuing to grow and change. We are most grateful to our webmaster, Gerry, for all the great work he does. Do take the time to visit the site on a regular basis (www.qwrc.org.au). Members will find lots of new information within the members section. Through the members section QWRC members can now contact each other and as requested minutes of the most recent QWRC council meetings are available too.

Remember to keep us informed of any changes to your contact details so you continue to receive your free copy of this newsletter. We are appreciative of the continued support given by **RACQ** that allows us to distribute this, our RnR newsletter, free of charge to all interested persons.

Please keep in mind that if you have any topic you would like to see in the RnR or an issue you want QWRC to address just let us know by letter or email.

Till next time, Cheers!

Annie



Close Encounters of the Cluden Kind



Gerry O'Connor

I used to be a fearless soul
Each challenge gladly met,
No doubts about the great unknown,
My confidence firmly set.

I used to think that critters all
No matter what they were,
Would see me just like one of them
Just lacking all their fur.

Until that fateful day
My mind remembers well,
I chanced upon a fearful sight,
Her name: Possum from Hell.

I was standing on a ladder
With her nestbox near at hand.
She was watching from the opening
As she hatched her evil plan.

Oh, her manner was deceiving,
Pinkish nose and little paws,
Till she sprang upon my forearm
Like a scene straight out of "Jaws."

Wobbly ladder, dangling possum,
As I pondered what to do:
How to separate a possum
With a grip like super glue.

As I stepped down to the cage floor
Teeth released, my joy complete,
Till I realised she wasn't done,
She pounced upon my feet!

Possum-footed I retreated,
Just how long I'll never know,
When as quickly as she started
Psycho-possum let me go.

As I leapt out through the cage door
At a fairly lively pace,
I could swear she sat there grinning,
With a smile upon her face.

Give me snakes, or give me spiders,
Frogs or fruit-bats, I won't budge;
For Hell hath no fire or fury
As a possum with a grudge.

Maggie Stanek

EDITORIAL

Have Your Say

The QWRC team have been discussing the format of this newsletter to increase space for articles. Twelve pages are the maximum feasible using the current folding and labeling method. There are several options:-

1. 16 or 20 pages using the existing layout plus:-
 - a) paper envelope (RnR folded in half)
 - b) plastic wrapped and sealed (RnR folded in half)
2. 16 or 20 pages using an A5 booklet layout plus:-
 - a) paper envelope
 - b) plastic wrapped and sealed
 - c) finances permitting it may also be possible to include colour photos on the cover pages.
3. No changes - continue with existing 12 page layout.
4. What colour printing do you prefer?
 - a) green b) blue c) red d) black

Please tell us what you think about this. Also what you would like to read about, give us your stories, your photos, your ideas. Deadline for the next issue is 15 January 2009.

Write to:

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

Judy Elliott



'Letters to the Editor'

I just want to express my appreciation of that wonderful and touching story "SNIPEY" in your latest edition of your newsletter. My thanks go out to Dave Derret, who with great skill, patience and dedication was able to give Snipey a new lease of life even though Snipey succumbed in the end. It gives me great comfort to know there are people like Dave in this world.

By the way all the contents in your letter make interesting reading with lots of helpful hints and information.

Again, many thanks.

Cheers

John Frois



I hope that you have all been sufficiently rested over Winter and are ready for the Spring onslaught of babies. Many thanks to Wombat Books for their very generous offer to help carer groups (see page 6).

I am often amazed and dismayed how many carers are involved with caring for their animals but fail to recognise the big picture. Yes, it is a wonderful experience to raise a little joey or whatever and release it but that single animal may only survive a very short time due to natural predation or otherwise (dogs, cats, cars). We can only ever give our animals a second (sometimes not very good) chance at life. We therefore need to do everything we can to protect habitat and educate the public.

We need to support the groups who are constantly battling on behalf of our environment and wildlife. Do we want the grandchildren of our grandchildren to only be able to see our wonderful wildlife in zoos? How long does it take to write a letter to the local papers, local, state or federal governments for instance to support whatever cause. It is even quicker and easier by email with no postage costs incurred.

It is very obvious that wildlife is way down the priority list for all levels of government with environmental groups receiving less and less funding and support.

Ignorance is bliss but if you genuinely care about wildlife then the following websites could be of interest to you. Anyone without internet access is truly disadvantaged (in many avenues of life) so think about getting connected, gain access at your local library or ask an internet connected friend to help you.

Education - Research - Information

- www.savethekoala.com - Australian Koala Foundation
- www.rainforest.org.au - Australian Rainforest Conservation Socy
- www.australianwildlife.org - Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- www.awpc.org.au - Australian Wildlife Protection Council
- www.qcc.org.au - Queensland Conservation Council
- www.epa.qld.gov.au/nature_conservation/nature_refuges
- www.sgapqld.org.au - Society for Growing Australian Plants
- www.wildlife.org.au - Wildlife Preservation Society of Qld
- www.wildlifeprotectaust - Wildlife Protection Association of Australia

One of the mother's spines had pierced through the abdomen below the pouch but above the cloaca. There



P4 - early January 2008

was in good condition. After cleaning the wound it was offered droplets of milk on the palm of my hand. Disinterested in the offering it was returned to the esky. There was little to do but wait and hope the spine had missed organs and that no infection developed.

I believe that as close to nature as possible is best and find that it works well for me. I don't use any thing other than hot water and mild non fragrant soap to wash surfaces and linen. All my equipment is dried by sunshine whenever possible, eskies are also left to dry outdoors. Echidna milk for a puggle at this stage of life is approximately 13% (bodyweight) and increases to 33% around the time the puggle is well spined. I have an old and trusted recipe that I use in the early stages and slowly wean the puggle on to a mix that contains three parts Wombaroo Puggle milk at the time the spines begin to appear.

After a few days the little puggle was still reluctant to feed so I tube fed it 5mls straight into the stomach. The next day, it readily imbibed 3mls, a drop at a time from the palm of my hand, over the course of one hour. This was not a lot, but a good attempt as it was tired from the effort. The puggle continued to be fed once daily with increasing quantities of milk being consumed.

Although the puggle appeared fine and by day 8 was consuming 8mls a feed I was becoming a little concerned that no movement of urine or faeces had occurred. The puggle took only 3mls on day 10 and doubt began to set in when no formula was taken on day 11. Patience was rewarded when on day 12 it produced both urine and a lovely soft quantity of nice brown faeces. It had managed to smear this all over itself but after a good warm wash it was back into the tucker again. This pattern was repeated a

few more times till it settled into regularly producing soft formed crescent shaped pellets.

The spines began to appear at 230g and, at this stage, I began to reduce the feeds to every second day and thereafter decreasing frequency of feeds while increasing quantity and quality of formula.

When it weighed almost 500g the puggle showed no response when given its first small termite mound. However it readily accepted a solid food meatmix recipe. After a few more weeks it began to show interest in termites and keeping up the supply to it and the others in care became my weekly outing.

By late February it was in the outside enclosure waddling in the sunshine and climbing over logs in search of food. The puggle emerged from its burrow usually mid to late morning in the warmth of the day and was fed meatmix twice per week after a reasonable search for food. Termite mounds were replaced regularly but there were also days when no food was supplied. The puggle regularly spent a few hours out of the burrow and was often seen with its four feet splayed out and lying flat on a log baking in the sun.



P4 - May 2008

The only real problem P4 presented was low immunity to ticks. In the hot dry soil the tick burden was a concern with up to 40 immature ticks covering mostly its stomach surface. The decision was made that it would need to be given time to build immunity before release

and over the course of a month or so the burden was reduced weekly. Eventually the tick issue subsided and as soon as the termites are active again P4 will be released.

It is essential that all Echidnas, not just puggles, being rescued and in care are kept cool. I keep an ice pack, wrapped in a handtowel, in puggle boxes to keep the temperature down to below 28C till they are old enough to go into the outside enclosure. Puggles below 100g are often not able to regulate their own body temperature.

Trish Lee Hong

ECHIDNA WORKSHOP

The Sunshine Coast WILVOS has engaged Peggy Rismiller for this workshop. Sunday 12 October at Rotary Hall, Windsor Road, NAMBOUR 10am - 5pm, BYO lunch. Non-members \$20. For bookings contact Zoe - szoe@y7mail.com or 3408 1903.

CARER PROFILE

Meet **Jacqui Webb** - wildlife carer and QWRC representative for Mackay/Whitsunday (District 4)



I rescued my first bird, a baby Magpie, when I was in grade 5 (many moons ago now!) and with the help and support of my parents, successfully raised him. There was then a succession of rescued birds. Both my parents and grandfather bred native parrots, so of course people would always bring us injured critters.

The passion grew from there. Mum and dad were always very supportive of my love for animals, putting up (and financing!) all the waifs that I managed to bring home. They recognised this passion and encouraged me to seek a future in this area.

I left school to work as a Veterinary Nurse and studied at TAFE to become a qualified Vet Nurse. I worked in several practices in Adelaide over the years including the After Hours Emergency Centre and lastly for 7 years at the Mile End Veterinary Clinic for Dr Robyn Stokes. Robyn still remembers having her toes lovingly chewed by baby Wombats while she was doing surgery!! Robyn is a member of Fauna Rescue Whitsundays and I thank her for her continuing support of my wildlife care (including the toe chewing) and Fauna Rescue.

I joined Bird Care and Conservation Society, SA, in 1986, continuing as a carer and also as a committee member. Over this time I reared and cared for many different species of birds as well as creching Magpies and Crows. I guess the real novelty then was Penguins in the bathtub!!

In this time I ended up rearing Brushtail and Ringtail possums, totally adorable creatures! This encouraged me to join Fauna Rescue of SA, who dealt with all species of wildlife, which led me on to caring for Red and Western Grey roos, Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats and reptiles as well as assisting with Koala rescues.

My home was one of the main 'rescue centres' in the southern Adelaide area. My house and garden became a menagerie of rescued wildlife, never a dull moment as my girls and friends will tell you!!

In between all this I did manage to raise two beautiful

daughters and now have a gorgeous granddaughter.

Anyway, in 1997 my partner, Tony, decided to pursue his sailing career as a skipper and we moved to the Whitsundays. As there were no Vet Nursing jobs available here I started to volunteer at the local wildlife park, which led to employed work for several years. During this time I realised there really wasn't a structured wildlife rescue organisation here. Linden (who also worked at the Park) and myself were getting inundated with injured and orphaned wildlife. We needed help!! After much deliberation with fellow wildlife friendly people we managed to coerce a few of these people to form a committee and Fauna Rescue of Qld was formed in April 2001. The name has recently changed to Fauna Rescue Whitsundays. It was a bit of a long haul, with lots of hard work involved, liaising with government departments and raising funds etc. Thanks to a few good people, including our local friendly wildlife rangers, firstly Michael Overland, then Jo Wyeth and now Peter Sykes, we managed to get the organisation incorporated, up and running.

When the wildlife park closed (after being there for 7 years) I started working in the local tourism industry, doing accounts and tour bookings for 2 years. I left this job to work in a local pet supply store but am currently working for YHA QLD, back in the tourism industry and working weekends at the Pet's Paradise.

My current positions in FRW are President, and Bird/Raptor/Koala Co-ordinator. I am also a representative for FRW on the stakeholder reference group for the Whitsunday Shire Council's Biodiversity Levy Committee.

I would like to quote a good friend of mine, David, a veterinary surgeon, who helped me immensely when I lived in Adelaide, caring for injured wildlife..... Many moons ago now he said "Jac, you need to also concentrate on preserving the environment too, why waste all your hard work and money on rehabilitating these creatures if there is no suitable habitat for them to return to?". These words have echoed in my mind over the last few years and that is why FRW is not only caring for the wildlife, but also trying to educate the community and our members about caring for the environment as well.

I have joined QWRC as I strongly believe they are trying to improve wildlife rehabilitation in Qld through guidance and support to all carers, as well as liaising with governmental departments on wildlife rehabilitation issues. I believe I can help them with this as well as support the carers in the Mackay/Whitsunday District.

Jacqui Webb

Chirpy's New Home

FUNDRAISER FOR YOUR GROUP

A great educational story (suitable for age 4–7 years) about two children who find a baby bird that has fallen out of its nest. The children learn about the bird, how to make it a new home and its environment. Some proceeds from the sales of this book and the first book, *Marny finds an Echidna*, will go to wildlife care organizations to help animal care in Australia.

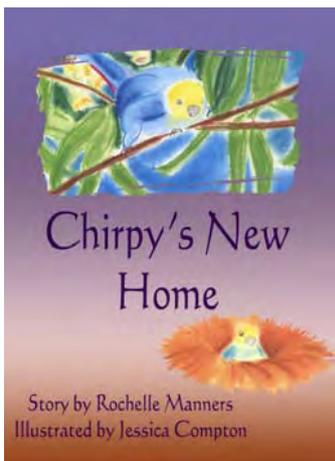
Orders can be made through Wombat Books. Mention the RnR newsletter when ordering and 50% of the cost will be donated back to a wildlife group of your choice or to QWRC.

If you are part of a wildlife group or wish to sell them to fundraise please contact us for further information.

Wombat Books

P.O. Box 472
Inala Qld 4077
0414761311

info@wombatbooks.com.au
www.wombatbooks.com.au



Recommended Retail \$14.95

ISBN: 978-0-9752321-3-2

Marny finds an Echidna. (\$12.95)

ISBN: 0-9752321-0-X

Order both books for a special of \$19.95 + 2.45 postage. (\$7.95 saving only available when ordered directly through Wombat Books)

RSPCA QUEENSLAND

Call Centre - June 2008

Incoming Calls this month 2010 (+ 586) - Last Month 2208 (+ 571);

Respectively calls to 1300animal and (calls to generic wildlife via prompts)

A new position in the Call Centre has been granted as a budget initiative, so this will alleviate some of the congestion.

New Initiatives for Wildlife (2008 – 2009) include:

- The approval to appoint a casual wildlife veterinarian (~12 hours /week) and conversion of a wildlife examination area will enable wildlife patients in care with wildlife rehabilitators' better access to specialist veterinary consultation.
- One of the casual wildlife assistant positions has been upgraded to a full time position.
- The other casual position remains at 24 hours week.
- Microchips and microchip scanners available to wildlife rehabilitators at cost from Fairfield.



SOFTWARE - SOFTWARE - SOFTWARE

Does your carer group need **free** (well almost!) **software**? Check www.donortec.com.au/ eligibility to see if your group qualifies. There is a need for Income Tax exempt charitable status with the Australian Tax Office. To check this see www.abr.business.gov.au. QWRC recently obtained Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2007 for \$22 administration fee including postage! There is an extensive list of software available. There is a minimum order of five titles but with fees starting at \$3 on some titles that should not be a great problem. For further information please contact our editor.



Protecting wildlife through habitat protection in the Wildlife Land Trust

The Wildlife Land Trust (WLT) is a program of the Humane Society International (HSI), which aims to protect wild animals by preserving their habitats and by providing them sanctuary within those natural habitats. It began in Australia in 2006 and has been growing steadily from its initial two sanctuaries. Property owners manage their land under the principle of "humane stewardship" and many of the owners are active wildlife rehabilitators, caring for species ranging from kangaroos through to bats. Several of the properties in the network are also home to rare and endangered flora and fauna and the habitats that support them encompass everything from farmland to rainforests.

The program originally began as part of the Humane Society of the United States in 1993 and has now expanded to cover eight countries protecting more than 1.8 million acres. WLT encourages people with properties of all shapes and sizes to join and current sanctuaries range from around six to six hundred acres. We are keen for your "bit of bush" to become part of the international network of sanctuaries.

Membership currently includes a non-binding 'letter of agreement' which spells out our joint commitment to protecting wildlife, a certificate of membership, a good

guide to managing your property, regular newsletters, access to our WLT group website, signs for your property and further advice on stronger protection methods for properties, as well as becoming a part of a worldwide network of like-minded sanctuary owners.

What can you do now?

You can go to www.wlt.org and have a look at what many people have been doing around the world to protect wildlife and habitats. In the Australian section of this site, if you have an interest in registering your property with the WLT, you can download a PDF application form that you can send directly to us in Sydney.

There are no legal obligations or costs implied in joining the WLT, which is entirely voluntary, and would not conflict (but complement) any existing or future agreements you might enter into to protect your land. We very much hope that this new initiative will be attractive to you, enabling you to let the wider-world know what good conservation work you are undertaking for wildlife and habitats in Australia.

If you would like to talk about this invitation directly, please call Sara Russell on 1800 333 737 or email him at sara@hsi.org.au

ROO RESCUE GONE BAD!

Hi, my name is Prue, a mum with three kids and I've been a wildlife carer for eight years. I was an active member with Wildlife Victoria and appointed NE Co-ordinator for Rescues, also rostering on for the 24hr emergency call out phone.

I relocated to Tannum Sands three years ago and became heavily involved with the Gladstone District Wildlife Association. In the past three years I have attended more than my share of face to face conflicts with severely injured kangaroos from vehicle hits to dog mauling. None of them are nice but I do this job because I can't stand the suffering.

On 1 March this year at 6:30 pm I received a call from GDWA (Gladstone District Wildlife Association) to inform me of a roo in a backyard in central Tannum. Entering the property I saw a roo being barked at from either side by dogs. I immediately rectified that so I could get close enough to assess him as we were losing light fast. I had called the Tannum police for assistance as they are always fantastic and attend nearly every roo rescue.



We discussed the rescue as usual covering all bases and dangers, the roo had a broken leg and head injury affecting his eyesight. On a second attempt at capture the police officer held the roo till he went to ground but the roo flipped over and the big toe ripped right through my left hand between the thumb and index finger. I ensured the roo was secure and arranged for the police to put him out of his misery at another location. I had blood pouring from my hand so the police gave me medical assistance at the site and called an ambulance. I suffered a bleed in the muscle of my right calf, a very bruised breast and a 2.5 cm tear between the webbing down to the bone in my hand.

To make matters worse I had just started a new job driving machinery. GDWA had insurance cover for any injury or incident but on further investigation this only covered incidents to the public if one of the animals caused injury. So not only am I terribly injured, I didn't have any pay as I only been there for a week and no insurance to cover the costs of my loss of work to support my family. As I look back a DART GUN would be the answer as no roo rescue is safe and, yes of course, I could have done a few things differently. We are groups doing voluntary aid for the community and need to have access to safer options when dealing with situations that no one else wants to take ownership of.

Prue Bamford

Ed note: due to space restrictions this is a shortened version of Prue's very traumatic experience. Sadly, if Prue had been a member of QWRC then she would have been covered by QWRC's Volunteer Workers insurance. As part of membership to GDWA members now also join QWRC. This is a bonus to the members with the group no longer having to pay premiums for Volunteer Workers or Public Liability insurance. Refer to page 11 for further benefits of membership.

Main Roads Survey of Roadkills

The Department of Main Roads is compiling a database of roadkills throughout Queensland. QWRC has offered to collect this information from wildlife carers. The information required is:-

- Name/address/phone no (person finding animal)
- Date (animal seen)
- Location - road name/nearest junction/landmark/GPS
- On road/off road/side of road
- Species ID if known or mammal/bird etc
- Status - dead/injured
- Outcome - left on site/removed/taken to carer/other



Survey Form is now on the QWRC website

Please forward records to Jacqui Webb:- email: jacquiwebb@bigpond.com

Phone: 4947 3308 - 0427 176966

KNOW THY ACRONYM

- DMR - Department of Main Roads
- WPSQ - Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
- SGAP - Society for Growing Australian Plants
- QCC - Queensland Conservation Council

VACANCY - Grants Officer

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.



HINTS & TIPS (for carers - from carers)



Mirrors can be a very useful aid in caring for young and old birds, but care and commonsense must be used. Firstly the bird must be able to see all of themselves (budgie mirrors and the like are no good at all). I use mirror tiles (30cm x 30cm) - they are a great help for the noisy single duckling and other precocial chick (young chicks mobile on hatching and feathered with down). Place mirror near food and roosting spot, the young see another young bird feeding etc., the mirror will need cleaning often. More care must be taken when using a mirror for older birds, especially if the bird can fly. We all know what happens to birds that fly into windows, so place the mirror on the outside of the aviary so the bird can see the wire between it and the other bird (itself) in the mirror. Be warned, aggressive birds - males in particular can see the other bird as a threat, this is where commonsense comes into it. Mirrors can be expensive so keep your eye open for a cheap duchess with a mirror. These mirrors are especially good for larger ground dwelling birds like Stone curlews which can imprint very easily. I have used mirrors for waders, seabirds, ducks, geese, crows, doves, parrots, tawny frogmouths etc. It may not always work and if the bird is showing signs of stress remove the mirror immediately.

When using soaked dog biscuits - use good quality - like Pal Meaty Bites and Pal Puppy. Do not use ones with vegetable flavouring and colouring in them as they go very soggy when soaked and the birds do not like the taste. If you find the birds do not like them soaked you can put them into a blender dry and grind them to a powder, this then can be used in the same way as insectivore powder to coat meat and still get all the nutrients.

Do you have any handy hints perhaps on breeding meal worms or other insects? None of us are too old or experienced to learn new tricks.

Dave Derrett

The Wildlife Vet

Hydatid Disease in Macropods



Hydatid disease is caused by the larval stage of the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* that was probably introduced to Australia at the time of European settlement. This parasite can have a negative impact on native wildlife, especially the small macropods. Along with sheep and humans, macropods become infected by ingesting eggs shed in the faeces of dogs, dingoes or foxes that are infected with the tiny adult tapeworm. These eggs are very resistant and can persist in the environment for years.

When macropods become infected hydatid cysts develop. These are most commonly found in the lungs and over time can increase in size and effectively reduce the lung capacity of infected animals. Fatalities directly related to extensive infection of the lungs have been recorded in wild rock-wallabies and a Bridled nailtail wallaby and it is possible that infected animals are also more susceptible to predation. All of these species are declining in numbers or have a restricted distribution. The potential significance of the parasite to their decline is unknown.

Echinococcus granulosus is widespread in Australia and is particularly common in livestock and wildlife from the Great Dividing Range to the east coast and in the hills surrounding Perth. There are hotspots for infection; a study looking at commercially harvested Eastern grey kangaroos found that animals on some properties were much more likely to be infected than others from nearby properties. The reasons for this are not clear. A health study of a colony of Brush-tailed rock-wallabies near Warwick showed that 20% of adult animals were infected. Over the last few years, three animals are known to have died of hydatid disease in this or neighbouring colonies. Several Tamar wallabies were experimentally infected to try and understand how quickly the disease progresses in macropods. Cysts grew much more rapidly than in sheep,

the parasite's natural host and, of course, the Tammar's lungs are much smaller. As a result, 7 of 11 infected animals were either euthanased or died within one year of infection. All this information suggests that infection is a significant threat to small macropods living in high risk areas. In addition, the larval stage can become fully developed in nine months (it takes several years in sheep) so dingoes/dogs/foxes can become infected and develop the adult tapeworm and the life cycle can begin again in less than a year. This means that the parasite can be much more prolific in wildlife compared to the domestic situation.

Infection is normally only diagnosed at post-mortem, but it is possible to see lung cysts on chest x-rays. There is no treatment for the infection in macropods and prognosis if cysts continue to grow is poor. Humans are usually treated surgically or with long term administration of high doses of de-worming medication. Neither of these options is applicable to small macropods. There is a vaccine that protects sheep and current research suggests that it also protects macropods. It is not available in Australia at the moment but it may be useful in future captive breeding and re-introduction programs.

Remember, an infected macropod is not a risk to humans. Macropods and humans both become infected by ingesting eggs shed by infected dogs or dingoes. Dogs become infected by eating the cysts so don't let your dogs eat sheep or macropod offal. De-worm all dogs with a product containing praziquantel at least every 6 weeks to ensure they are not a risk to you or native fauna in your care.

Tamsin Barnes

Ed note: The author of the Coccidiostat Toxicities article in the last issue was David Blyde BVSc, Veterinarian, Sea World.

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/>>

Contact your local rep.

- District 1 – Cape York/Dry Tropics/Gulf
Penny Johnson
Phone: 4069 6229
- District 3 – Savannah/Townsville Marine
Eleanor Pollock
Phone: 4779 7708
- District 4 – Mackay/Whitsundays
Jacqui Webb
Phone: 4947 3308
- District 5 – Capricorn/Gladstone
Annie Saunders
Phone: 4975 6281
- District 7 – Wide Bay Burnett/Great Sandy
Judy Elliott
Phone: 4156 5382
- District 9 – Toowoomba
Trish Lee Hong
Phone: 4630 5208
- District 10 – Sunshine Coast/Southern Marine
Glendell Appleford
Phone: 0413 453722
- District 11 – Southeast/Moreton Bay
Vicky Dawson
Phone: 3200 0592



MOVING HOUSE
or changing your email address
Remember to advise QWRC

We receive a number of Return to Sender RnRs after each mailing. Numerous emails also bounce which would indicate that our mailing list is not being kept up to date. Remember that EPA are unable (due to privacy laws) to advise us of any carer details. It is therefore vital that **YOU** tell **US** of any changes. Groups please note.

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL

JOIN QWRC NOW - All new and renewal memberships will be extended to 31 December 2009.

WIN.....WIN.....WIN.....WIN

All new memberships received before 31 December 2008 will go into a draw to receive a family pass to Australia Zoo.

QWRC has negotiated with the Department of Main Roads for safety vests to be supplied to all our members.

BONUS....BONUS....BONUS

All new and renewal memberships will receive a safety vest with their membership card. One vest per member. DMR recommend members contact their local office to undertake road safety instruction.

**THERE HAS NEVER BEEN
A BETTER TIME TO JOIN
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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.....

Safety vest size S M L XL (circle)

Regional Council 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

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Would you like to contact other carers in your area?

All members of QWRC have their name, phone number and email details listed in District order in the members area of the QWRC website www.qwrc.org.au.

Animal Health Australia

If you notice any unusual disease symptoms, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths in wildlife, immediately call your veterinarian, stock inspector or the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888. For more information visit www.aahc.au/palc.



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