

RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 17
March 2010

Keeping carers informed



Blacksoil Bearded Dragon, Pogona henrylawsoni

Courtesy of Steve Parish Publishing

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Illustrations by
Louise Saunders



The Horrors of Barbed Wire Fencing



Brolga by Glendell Appleford



Little red flying fox by Glendell Appleford



Same as above by Glendell Appleford



Black flying fox by Sandy Cleeland



Australasian Grebe

Courtesy of Steve Parish Publishing

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council – Keeping Carers Informed

Wildlife Friendly Fencing -
www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com

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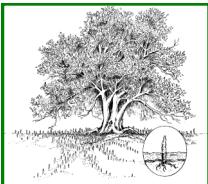
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RnR is produced by The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council twice a year. It is distributed (by request), free of charge, to all licensed wildlife rehabilitators throughout Queensland. To ensure you continue to receive a copy, either by post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



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Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au.



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Best Practice Guidelines **available to QWRC members** on their website www.qwrc.org.au include:

- Euthanasia of Native Wildlife in Queensland
- Wildlife Autopsy by Rehabilitators in Queensland
- Hygiene Practices
- What happens to animals that can't be released?
- Understanding your duty of care
- Release of wildlife
- Zoonosis
- Care of Flying fox orphans outside their geographical range
- Wildlife in the Workplace



From the Chair..

I hope that everyone had a restful and joyous Christmas season and that 2010 is shaping up to be just what you had hoped.

Did everyone get the rain they needed? As I write we are experiencing the remnants of ex tropical cyclone Olga. We had received wonderful rain before Christmas which had started the rejuvenation process then the follow-up rain in early January completed the picture. As you may know we own a small mixed fruit orchard in central Queensland but the months of drought had left us with little or no fruit and trees that looked as if they would never recover. Even the younger natural vegetation gum trees were dying. Low branches of any surviving trees and any small trees we had put in to replace losses were being devoured by macropods as there was just no other food. I am constantly amazed by the wonder of nature! Trees bare of leaves with dry, seemingly dead branches have all come back to life! We may not have grass in the house yard but at least the solid covering of weed is green and there is no more dust. With large rainfalls in a short time frame our dams are now overflowing and we have to be careful getting around the farm so as not to get bogged!

Just after Christmas we had a pair of Australasian Grebes take up residence on the often dry creek that feeds one of our dams. It has been a real joy to watch them as they spend time diving for food. I still haven't managed to get any decent photos though as they are just too fast at diving and spend a lot of time under

water. They have built a nest and we are keeping a watchful though distant eye on the proceedings. We are sure there are eggs but it is impossible to know how many as the eggs get covered each time the adult leaves the nest. I am pleased to report that their floating nest is safe even though that creek is now flowing as it is firmly anchored to a branch.

QWRC encourages all members and non member rehabbers to keep your ideas flowing in to us. Is there something you feel your peak body could or should do for the rehabbers of the State? Please let us know. We still want your suggestions and ideas for further Best Practice Guidelines. Please give consideration to the article on page 6 where we are asking for photos for our web site.

There are still a few vests available to members so send in that paperwork which can be found in the members section of our web site. As new members join the last of the fuel cards are being sent out.

Do you often remove dead animals from roads and highways and want to have signage erected to hopefully make other road users aware? Do you have the joy of releasing animals back to the wild and would like to record accurately where they were released? QWRC can help members with this. Remember we have easy to use GPS units that member can hire to record this data. We can return the data on road kill hot spots to Main Roads Department which may result in getting that signage erected. The detail to hire a GPS unit is available in the members section of our web site.

Continued on Page 5

Editorial..

QWRC has just increased the value of the Public Liability Insurance we provide. We have been informed that the \$10 million cover we had was no longer enough so this has been increased to the \$20 million now required by most centres where groups may be fundraising. Groups who take advantage of their entire membership joining QWRC will benefit from this change. Has your group taken this step to save money? Should you be interested in taking this step please speak to your local councillor or contact us at secretary@qwrc.org.au

Remember that your \$20 QWRC membership also provides you with Volunteer Workers Personal Accident Insurance too so apart from the other benefits it is money very well spent!

We are working to reduce the backlog of training packages awaiting endorsement. I am sure you all know how busy our wildlife friendly vets are so there is limited time to assess the submitted packages. Please bear with us as we work through this small glitch.

QWRC looks forward to hearing from you the rehabbers we work to represent.

Till next time

Cheers

Annie



Rain, glorious rain but I think we've all had enough now! Water, water, everywhere! I apologise if this edition of RnR is a little later than expected but I need sunshine for our solar power system. I have been very limited to the amount of time I can use the computer and internet.

I hope you enjoy the extra colour page of photos. I'm trying to keep the reptile carers amongst you happy. See page 6 for further details on sending your photos to QWRC.

Remember to use your surname as the reference when banking membership money and also ensure that you send a completed application form (even for renewals).

Please tell us what you think about this issue. Also what you would like to read about, give us your stories, your photos, your ideas. Deadline for the next issue is 16 July 2010.

Write to:

The Editor, PO Box 488,
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

Email: editor@qwrc.org.au

I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Elliott



Australian Bat Lyssavirus – the facts

Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV) is a virus of the family Rhaboviridae that is closely related, but different, to classical rabies virus. Of those sick or injured bats that do show signs of central nervous system disease, about a third are infected with ABLV.



Photo by Christine Wynne

ABLV has only been reported in Australia and is considered to be present in all populations of Australian bats. It is likely that ABLV also occurs in bats in South-East Asia. ABLV was first recognised in 1996 in a sick Flying fox in Ballina, New South Wales.

The virus has been found in the four common species of Flying fox (Black, Greyheaded, Little red and Spectacled Flying foxes) and Yellow-bellied sheath-tail bats (*Saccopteryx flaviventris* - an insectivorous microbat).

ABLV is a rare disease. Research indicates that ABLV is present in less than one per cent of all wild bats. However, up to 5-10 per cent of sick, injured or orphaned bats may be infected. Of

Bats with ABLV are found in circumstances that suggest they are unwell including on the ground, in trees or on other structures, away from the roosting camp, during the day.

The disease in bats

ABLV causes invariably fatal encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). In bats this produces a range of clinical signs of central nervous system disease, including:

- paresis (weakness) and an inability to fly, hang properly, swallow properly or move about a cage
- paralysis - most obvious in the hind limbs
- convulsions, seizures, tremors
- unusual vocalisation or incessant licking
- changes in behaviour, including agitation, aggression and approaching people.

Less than 20 per cent of bats infected with ABLV show signs of abnormal aggression or approaching people.

There is no treatment for animals once they are clinically ill. Death is inevitable once clinical signs appear. Animals suspected of having clinical ABLV disease should be euthanased and tested.

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Treatments for people

While there is no effective treatment once a person is clinically ill, prompt treatment following a bat bite or scratch can prevent this serious disease.

This should include:

- if bitten or scratched by a bat, do not scrub the wound. Wash the wound gently but thoroughly for at least five minutes with soap and water. If available, an antiseptic with anti-virus action such as povidone-iodine, iodine tincture, aqueous iodine solution or alcohol (ethanol) should be applied after washing.

- if bat saliva has got in the eyes, nose or mouth, flush the area thoroughly with water.

Seek medical advice from a doctor or nearest hospital immediately. Treatment involves a course of vaccinations that is necessary to protect the person against ABLV. If the bat is tested and the results are negative for ABLV, the course of vaccinations will not be required.

Since the introduction of routine post-exposure prophylaxis for bat bites and scratches there have been no further human cases of ABLV.

Biosecurity Queensland (part of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)

Education - Research - Information

www.wildlifeqld.com.au
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www.graemechapman.com.au
www.wombatawareness.com
www.catbib.com.au
www.wwoof.org.au



PHOTOS - PHOTOS - PHOTOS

QWRC is keen to publish your wildlife photos either on their website or on the colour pages of RnR. We would like to organise photos showing baby animals and the adults to assist identification. It is often difficult but vital to be able to identify a bird or mammal prior to feeding and care. Acknowledgement will of course be given to the photographer. Please include ID and any other relevant details such as sex, weights, measurements or ages if known. We ask for photos of good resolution and those depicting good rehabilitation practices. There can be no guarantee given that all submitted photos will be published.

Editor

Send your photos to: secretary@qwrc.org.au

Hints on becoming an Incorporated Association



This is part two of an article on being an incorporated association.

Any group of persons can work as a group without becoming incorporated however taking that extra step carries both legal responsibilities and benefits for the group.

Last issue we looked at the requirements set down by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) for the incorporation of a not for profit organisation. In this issue we will look at the roles of those persons elected by the members of a group to run that group. It must be remembered that a group has legal obligations even if they do not complete the incorporation process.

As stated in our last issue when a group is formed it must elect an executive committee that must have at least a president, secretary and treasurer (two different people must hold the president and treasurer positions). Let's now look at the tasks each of those office bearers might have to fulfil.

President

- To chair monthly and executive meetings.

- To maintain order and conduct of meetings in a proper and orderly manner.
- To ensure that the motions carried at the meetings are acted upon.
- To represent the organisation at official engagements.
- To welcome new members into the group.
- To encourage all members to participate.

Vice-president (optional)

- To chair the monthly and executive meetings in the absence of the President, and to inform the President of the events of that meeting.
- To maintain order and conduct of meetings in a proper and orderly manner
- To represent the organisation at official engagements in the absence of the President.
- To welcome new members into the group in the absence of the President.

Secretary (could be combined with Treasurer)

- To maintain an up to date register list of all financial members including full details for each member – name, address, contact details etc. (note that for ease of function this task could be undertaken by the Treasurer)
- To ensure that all enquiries are answered and the appropriate literature is sent out.

Continued on Page 9

- To liaise with the Treasurer for receipts as required.
- To file all membership forms/volunteer agreements.
- To ensure that a record is kept of all inward and outward correspondence.
- To ensure that all correspondence is kept up to date.
- To keep on file/index the original copies of all literature that the group has produced.
- To ensure that all accounts of the association are paid by a cheque signed by any two of the approved signatories and are crossed not negotiable
- To ensure that all expenditure is approved or ratified at a monthly or executive meeting
- To ensure that within 90 days of the end of the financial year a statement is prepared containing particulars of:
 - a. the income and expenditure for the financial year just ended.
 - b. the assets and liabilities of all mortgages, charges and securities affecting the property of the association at the close of that financial year.
- To ensure that all details of the association's financial affairs are presented to the nominated auditor for examination annually.
- To ensure that the Secretary receives a report from the auditor prior to holding of the next AGM, following the financial year in respect of which such audit was made.

Minutes Secretary (optional)

- To prepare the agenda for each meeting.
- Take the minutes/attendance records of past six months minutes to all meetings.
- Read minutes and list items for general business.
- Record minutes of all meetings. Delegate this when not attending.
- Record all motions and amendments.
- Assist chairperson in counting votes by show of hands or by secret ballot as applicable.

Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

- To maintain proper books and accounts correctly showing the financial affairs of the association and the particulars usually shown in books of a like nature.
- To ensure that all monies are banked as soon as possible after receipt thereof.

Next issue we will look at the general running of an association – general meetings, management meetings and annual general meetings.

For further information about incorporation and access to all the paperwork required visit the OFT at :

www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/associations-nonprofits.htm

HATCHING EGGS



Bush turkey chick

Another carer asked me about hatching eggs the other day! So I thought this would make a very good article for RnR. Firstly, I must explain, I used to have a Duck & Game Bird Farm. I incubated and hatched my own eggs using a 4,500 chicken egg incubator. There was a lot of work logging, candling, helping slow chicks out of their shells, as well as cleaning and sterilizing etc. I also used broody bantams, doves, pigeons to hatch specie ducks, pheasant and parrots etc.

Specie bird eggs are much more variable than domestic breeds, if you take for example two extremes of species – ducks and Emus. Ducks which usually lay near water have egg shells which are thin like porcelain. The duck's feathers also carry moisture which helps to keep the humidity higher for incubation and hatching. The old emu on the other hand usually lives in a dry arid environment; their eggs are very thick and hard shelled, needing much less humidity for incubation and hatching.

Bearing all this in mind, I really don't think it is worth incubating specie eggs unless they are a long way into

incubation, as there are too many variables. Eggs really need to be in the hatching stage to be viable. As my wife is always saying "you can't save everything"! Precocial chicks are a lot easier to rear, young hatch mobile with down feathers and independent, i.e. ducks, geese, swans, waders, plovers etc.

So if you have an egg come into care, the first step is to listen for a tapping sound, you may even be able to hear the chick, cheeping. Keep egg warm!! But be warned addled eggs can explode in your ear, I speak from experience and it's not a nice smell, it sticks with you for a very long time. Depending on the specie of the egg, incubation periods vary, but the last 2-3 days is the beginning of the hatching stage. Eggs do not need to be turned once hatching starts.

Candling is the next step, use a torch in a dark room, cup your hand around the egg and shine the torch light through the egg. This way you can see if the egg is fertile or not. If it is clear then the egg is either infertile or incubation has not started yet. If it is dark and has an air sac at one end there is a good chance of hatching. Loss of humidity is loss of hatchability. The egg, depending on specie, will need at least 80 – 90% relative humidity to hatch successfully.

Do not try to help chicks out of their shell if they are doing a good job, as they can bleed to death if the shell and inner membrane are broken too quickly. Also the neck of the chick can get stuck on the inner membrane causing rye neck in newly hatched chicks.

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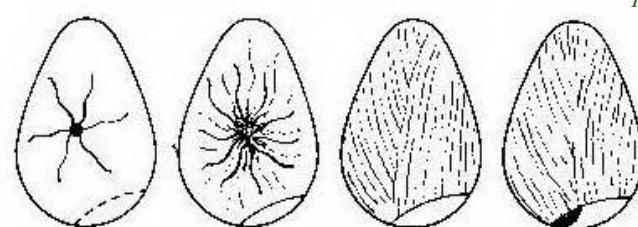
The best easy form of hatcher is a small plastic fish tank with 35mm of bedding sand on the bottom then place fish tank onto a heat pad. (Sand holds heat well) Place a takeaway container with warm to hottish water inside fish tank. (The bigger the water surface area the higher the humidity) Place a thick towel over the top of the fish tank to hold the humidity and temperature in. You will need an electronic thermometer with built-in humidity indicator. Keep hatching eggs at around 30-34C. You may need to experiment in getting the right temperature and humidity as heat pads vary.

If you need to help a chick out of its shell, brake small pieces at a time in the direction the chick is going, keep membrane moist using warm sterile water only – cotton buds work well. Let chicks dry off completely for 12 hours. There is no need to worry about food and water at this stage, because they still retain the remnants of the yolk in their abdomens.



Bush turkey

Photos by Janet Gamble



Dave Derrett

HINTS AND TIPS (for carers - from carers)



A quick and easy solution to filling up those holes in the aviary where snakes can get in is to use 'Foam in a Can'. It takes just a few minutes and swells up to three times the original size, and can be used on fairly large holes around the edges etc. This shows how a small squirt expands.

Trish Mathers

A hot glue gun can be used to patch shade cloth - use gloves and safety glasses.

Christine Wynne



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Australian Wildlife Supplies uses a percentage of profits to sponsor and support wildlife rehabilitation, conservation and events.

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Web: www.wildlifesupplies.com.au

CONTACTING QWRC

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 488, ARCHERFIELD 4108

TELEPHONE:

Refer to local representative list

EMAIL:

secretary@qwrc.org.au

editor@qwrc.org.au

WEBSITE:

www.qwrc.org.au

**Please address all correspondence
to the Secretary.**

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 DERM 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.**



Your local representatives:

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

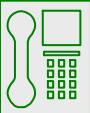
Remember to advise QWRC





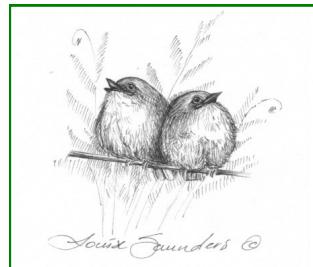
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ◆ **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.**



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.



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

(A new form is required each membership year)

Surname

Post to:
The Secretary
PO Box 488
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108
or scan and email to:
secretary@qwrc.org.au

First Name

Date of Birth

Residential Address.....
.....

Postal address.....
.....

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 (calendar year)

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

**MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL
JOIN OR RENEW NOW AND RECEIVE
A \$10 BP FUEL CARD**

Only available until the grant funding runs out.

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 or email secretary@qwrc.org.au.

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 can claim a safety vest . One vest per member. While stocks last. See the member section of the QWRC website to obtain the necessary paperwork.

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



Australia Zoo Rescue

The Australia Zoo Rescue Unit received a call from a member of the public regarding an Eastern grey kangaroo joey which was inside the basketball courts at Beerwah High School.



HELP - I don't play basketball!

The courts were padlocked as it was school holidays, however the mischievous little joey had managed to sneak in through a hole in the fence and was unable to find its way out again.

The Australia Zoo Rescue Unit rushed to the scene to find the joey still trapped inside the courts with its mother and father outside watching anxiously. The team managed to crawl through the hole in the fence, catch the joey and

release him back outside the courts. Fortunately for this joey he sustained no injuries during his adventure and was able to be reunited with his mother and father, who quickly came to check that he was not in any further danger. The Rescue Team then fixed the hole in the fence to ensure no other wildlife could get trapped inside the courts during the school holidays.

The Australia Zoo Rescue Unit rescued approximately 250 Eastern grey kangaroos last year.

Ed: So nice to hear of a happy ending.

www.Australiazoo.com.au

rescue@australiazoo.com.au
(07) 5436 2000 or 1300 369 652



Happily reunited with Mum and Dad

Carer Profiles

Karin Traub loves animals and always dreamed of visiting Australia and was keen to see Australia's unique wildlife. She arrived in 2003, bought a car in Sydney, and headed north to work her way around the country. The person who hired her as a wwoofer (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) in Cairns didn't show up, but Karin was told that Eagles Nest, a wildlife hospital and sanctuary in Ravenshoe on the southwestern Tablelands, may need help. Karin rang Harry Kunz who was very welcoming and said "*come straight away – don't worry – we have plenty of room*".



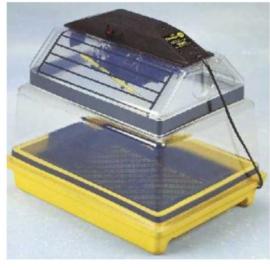
Harry Kunz also loves Australia and its wildlife and has been a wildlife carer in North Queensland for over 25 years. He specialises in raptors and reptiles, but any native animal needing care is welcome at his home, 5 acres of land on the banks of the Millstream which has become the Eagles Nest Wildlife Hospital. It survives because Harry works from dawn to dusk 7 days a week with his friends helping him feed and care for his animals. They

also donate food and bedding, and help to raise money through raffles and fundraisers. One friend even decided to help Harry find what they thought he really needed so they stuck a joke decal on his car that read "I am looking for the perfect woman". Within ten days of meeting Karin, Harry wrote under his car's decal "Not any more". Karin never did get to see any more of Australia because she has been so busy at Eagles Nest ever since.

Together Harry and Karin have made Eagles Nest a centre for rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured or orphaned Australian native wildlife. They are now expanding into education and research with captive breeding programs. Eagles Nest doesn't receive any government assistance and relies on the generosity of the public to pay food and vet bills yet still manage to rescue, rehabilitate and release over 400 animals a year.

During the day Eagles Nest is a hive of activity with feeding and caring for animals and working with Eagles Nest helpers, volunteers, wwoofers, researchers and scientists who give their time and talents to make a difference. At night, the Eagles Nest sanctuary comes alive with possums, curlews, owls, roos, wallabies ... this little paradise is now home not only for any injured or orphaned native Australian who needs sanctuary to heal and survive, but for two people who met because of their love for Australian wildlife.

Harry was named winner of the 2010 Environmental Excellence Award in the Regional Australia Day celebrations.
www.wildlife-sanctuary.info

 <p>Animal intensive care units thermostatically controlled</p> <p>Great to help save PINKYs</p>	<h1 style="color: red; text-align: center;">W A POULTRY EQUIPMENT & PINE HILL SHEETMETAL and WIRE WORKS</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">1170 BALDIVIS RD BALDIVIS. 6171 TEL : 1300881170 FAX : 08-95241716</p>	 <p>Animal intensive care units thermostatically controlled</p> <p>Great to help save PINKYs</p>
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MONEY - MONEY MONEY

Tips on how to access funding or save money



We all know how much money we spend on caring for our wonderful wildlife, their websites which gives an idea on usually lots! There are ways of which projects and finances are lightening the financial burden.

Incorporated groups have the advantage of having access to funding from a variety of sources through grants and other avenues. The internet is a wonderful resource for researching what is currently available.

www.grantslink.gov.au is a good place to start but the following are worth investigating further:-

Grants

Gambling Community Benefit Fund

www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants

Applications for grants for funding up to \$35,000.

Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund

www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants

Applications for grants for funding up to \$150,000.

Deadlines for applications for both of these are the end of February, May, August and November. Applications are now completed online which makes it much easier than before. Letters of support are still required.

Successful applicants are often listed on their websites which gives an idea on which projects and finances are acceptable.

Local government authorities (Councils) may also have opportunities for grants for community groups. Check out their website or contact them directly.

If you are a member of a group that is not incorporated it may be possible (with some grants) to get an incorporated group to sponsor you for a grant application. However, refer to page 8 for some information on Incorporation.

Queensland Wildlife Hospital Inc

www.qwh.org.au

This organisation has a grant program for **individuals** to claim for veterinary and produce invoices. Closing dates are 1st March and 1st September annually.

Other grants are sometimes advertised in newspapers or other media and may only be available in certain parts of Queensland (ie Energex/Ergon)

Tips on completing grant applications:

www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/finding_funds/submissions

Continued on page 21

Cheap software**www.donortec.org.au**

This is an excellent resource for groups to purchase software at an enormous discount.

Donations**www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au**

Donation boxes to actively seek cash from the public need a Certificate of Sanction from the Office of Fair Trading.

www.ato.gov.au/nonprofit

To offer tax deductible donations the group must have Deductible Gift Recipient status .

Also investigate registering your group for GST exemption.

Raffles

These need a lot of organising and also require the above mentioned Certificate of Sanction. Check out the regulations as above.

Sausage Sizzles (ie Bunnings)

These are also a lot of work but can be quite profitable for the group. PLI and Basic Food Hygiene and Safety Course (from local council) certificates are required.

Some organisations (Big W, IGA, Good Guys etc) have community funding available from time to time. Check their websites for information.

Public Liability Insurance (PLI)

Many of these funding applications will only be available to an incorporated group holding Public Liability Insurance. Refer to page 5 for the benefits of groups obtaining this insurance via membership to QWRC.

Media Requests

Try local newspapers/radio/TV for public awareness together with requests for donations of cages, equipment, food etc. or any other help that is needed. I had a crane and two men help me with my glider aviary.

Hospitals sometimes donate out of date items. It is also worth trying medical practices, pharmacies and rural supply outlets. It is amazing what you can get but you do have to ASK.! Remember that most members of the public still think that we are paid by the government for rescuing and caring for wildlife. IF ONLY!

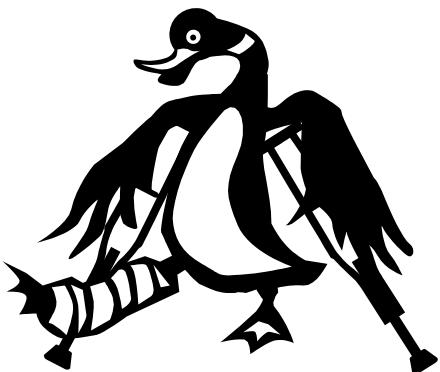
Finally, a ‘begging letter’ can be sent to anyone but target people/organisations likely to respond favourably.

I am sure that we all do our best with what funding we have but life for the animals could be greatly enhanced if we didn’t have to worry about finances.

*Editor*

The Wildlife Vet

Aspiration Pneumonia



Aspiration pneumonia is a common condition of hand-reared wildlife. Aspiration pneumonia (or inhalation pneumonia as it is commonly referred to), is a pulmonary infection characterised by inflammation and necrosis caused by the inhalation of foreign material. In hand-reared wildlife, the inhalation of milk formula is by far the most common cause of aspiration pneumonia.

The severity of the pneumonia depends upon the material that is inhaled, the amount inhaled and the response time between the event and diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Because milk sours quickly, when aspirated into the lungs, bacteria can form very quickly thereby causing serious respiratory complications.

The clinical signs of aspiration pneumonia can include:-

- Unwillingness or inability to feed
- Lethargic
- Depressed
- A ‘clicking’ noise whilst breathing
- Open-mouthed breathing

Unfortunately by the time an animal is displaying any of the above clinical signs, the animal’s lungs may be badly compromised and the prognosis may be poor. The most effective method of diagnosis of aspiration pneumonia is by recognising the signs of inhalation and obtaining prompt veterinary attention. Waiting until an animal is displaying clinical signs of pneumonia severely reduces the likelihood of a positive outcome.

Recognising when an animal has aspirated fluid is generally characterised by:

- The animal may appear to “choke” or “cough” whilst drinking
- Fluid may come out of the animal’s nostrils
- Excess fluid may come from the animal’s mouth immediately following feeding

In some instances, these signs may be very subtle and a carer may not necessarily notice that the animal has aspirated.

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It is imperative that when an animal aspirates, prompt veterinary treatment is sought so that a firm diagnosis and appropriate treatment can be prescribed.

Diagnosis of aspiration pneumonia is generally made by obtaining a detailed history from the wildlife carer and in many instances, obtaining a radiograph of the lungs. Treatment generally involves prescribing a broad-spectrum antibiotic. In severe cases, the use of an inhalation antibiotic and/or bronchodilator may be prescribed by the veterinarian.

By far the most effective method of treatment is prevention. As most cases of aspiration pneumonia occur whilst animals are being hand-fed with a syringe or teat, correct feeding methods are imperative to prevent this condition occurring.

The following guidelines should be followed whilst feeding young animals:-

Administration of fluid (whether water, milk or medications) should not be given faster than the animal can swallow. The smaller the animal the smaller the quantities that should be offered at each interval. Remember also, if the animal is debilitated (eg. dehydrated, weak, malnourished) the animal's responses may not be as quick as a healthy animal and the rate of administration should be adjusted accordingly.

Use the appropriate sized feeding equipment. The smaller the animal, the smaller the feeding equipment. Use small-gauged syringes, cannulas and fine teats to feed small animals.

Ensure that the appropriate sized hole is placed in latex teats. This is by far the most common cause of aspiration in bottle-fed joeys. Joeys are not designed to drink milk quickly – look at mum's teat – the supply of milk is slow and steady. Joeys are not designed to drink quickly and although it may be more convenient for us humans to place a bigger hole in a teat so that the animal drinks more quickly, it is not good for the animal. Check teats before each feed to ensure that the hole has not become too big or split. As a general guide, for a joey less than 1kg the diameter of the hole should be no more than 0.5mm. For a joey 1kg to 2kg, the hole should have a diameter no more than 1mm.

Despite the best efforts of wildlife carers, there will still be some instances where aspiration of fluid into the lungs occurs. To ensure the best prognosis for the animal, it is always best to be honest with your veterinarian and provide a detailed history so that appropriate treatment can be prescribed. The quicker treatment is obtained, the better the prognosis.

*Dr Amber Gillett
Australia Zoo*

Ed: Refer to page 26 for information about teats.

*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/>>*

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MICROCHIPPINGUpdate



Universal Microchip Scanner

RSPCA Queensland have been in negotiation for some time with QPWS to gain approval to microchip particular wildlife in care. Verbal approval has been granted for this to occur and formal written approval is expected in the immediate future. Under the Nature Conservation Act it is an offence to permanently mark wildlife without an approved release program. The RSPCA application for approval to microchip wildlife stated that, "An appropriate and healthy environment is essential for the welfare and survival of wildlife patients during and after the rehabilitation process. This is the single most essential requirement that every wildlife patient needs if it is to survive with a good quality of life after release. Without monitoring our release success rates, it is difficult to be sure that every requirement prior to release has been sufficiently met".

Microchipping will assist in accurate data collection to support ongoing measurement and evaluation of rehabilitation and release programs to determine success rates.

RSPCA places microchips according to the Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) recommendations. http://www.cbsg.org/cbsg/content/files/CBSG_News/newsletter_12.1.pdf

Mammals – Behind the left ear or to the left of the spine between scapula

Birds – Left pectoral muscle

Reptiles – Lizards <12.5cm snout to vent: coelomic cavity

Lizards >12.5cm snout to vent: lateral left body side anterior to inguinal region

Chelonians >10 cms left hind limb socket or leg

Snakes left side dorsal to vent

Most other states in Australia microchip flying fox species and because flying foxes are so gregarious it is appropriate to focus on these animals in the first instance. It is also considered best practice in flying fox husbandry that individuals can be identified when in a crèche or group situation.

Continued on Page 25

Costs for microchipping are reduced because RSPCA Qld is able to bulk purchase the devices. One microchip costs approximately \$5 dependant on volume. RSPCA can also supply scanners at reduced cost (about \$360).

RSPCA are contributing where possible however there remains a requirement to help subsidise costs – eg. Brisbane Bat Rescue subsidise half the cost of the microchips.

We will be expanding the number of species to be permanently identified, initially targeting animals that need to be identified in group situations ie multiple animals in the same enclosures (Ringtail possums, ducks) and animals that are more likely to be recovered post release, ie Peregrine falcons from the city of Brisbane and soft release animals, particularly Brushtail possums.

Currently this service will only operate out of the Brisbane shelter where there is appropriate veterinary support. Hopefully we can expand this program to Noosa and beyond through our permanent and contract vets / shelters and PAWS (RSPCA's Portable Animal Welfare Service).

Records are kept on the RSPCA Qld's database (Shelter-mate) and details are available on request, with a view to have the information of permanently identified animals available on-line for ease of access.

RSPCA's NEW VET



Rebecca patching up a turtle

RSPCA Qld's wildlife department celebrates the appointment of full-time wildlife veterinarian, **Rebecca Burgess** at the Brisbane shelter. This will allow us to expand our follow up services to wildlife patients and to offer consultations / treatments to wildlife carers and provide advice and recruit additional domestic vets to assist wildlife rehabilitation voluntarily across the state. Bec has been involved in mixed practice and as locum for the Territory Wildlife Park in addition to being the Wildlife Disease Assoc. representative for the Northern Territory. She has also had extensive veterinary experience working with wildlife in Greece, Bolivia and Thailand.

Welcome Bec – watch this space ☺



wildlife@rspcaqld.org.au

07 3426 9910

TEATS - TEATS - TEATS



Typical selection of wooden teat moulds

How often do you see someone feeding a joey using a teat with an enormous hole? This is very bad practice and can result in problems, even death of the animal, as highlighted in the Wildlife Vet article on pages 22/23.

There is no excuse for not having a plentiful supply of new teats available. Many groups make their own to supply their members or you can buy the teat moulds and latex and make your own. Teat moulds are available from:

<http://www.longgrasssystems.com.au/teatmoulds.html> or some other suppliers.

If possible, ask local carers where they buy their supplies of latex and the hardener that some people use.

Always check the size of the teat hole before each feed. To make the holes a

skewer with a fine point or a tiny electrical screwdriver (available as a set from a \$2 shop) can be used. A tiny sliver can also be cut using nail scissors.

Hygiene of the teats between feeds is also very important. Wash in hot soapy water, rinse and allow to dry. Some people then store the teats in the fridge. Boiling water can be used to sterilise the teats but I place mine in a mug of medical sterilising fluid and then rinse before using.

Unused teats are best stored either in your fridge or freezer or at least in a cool dark place.

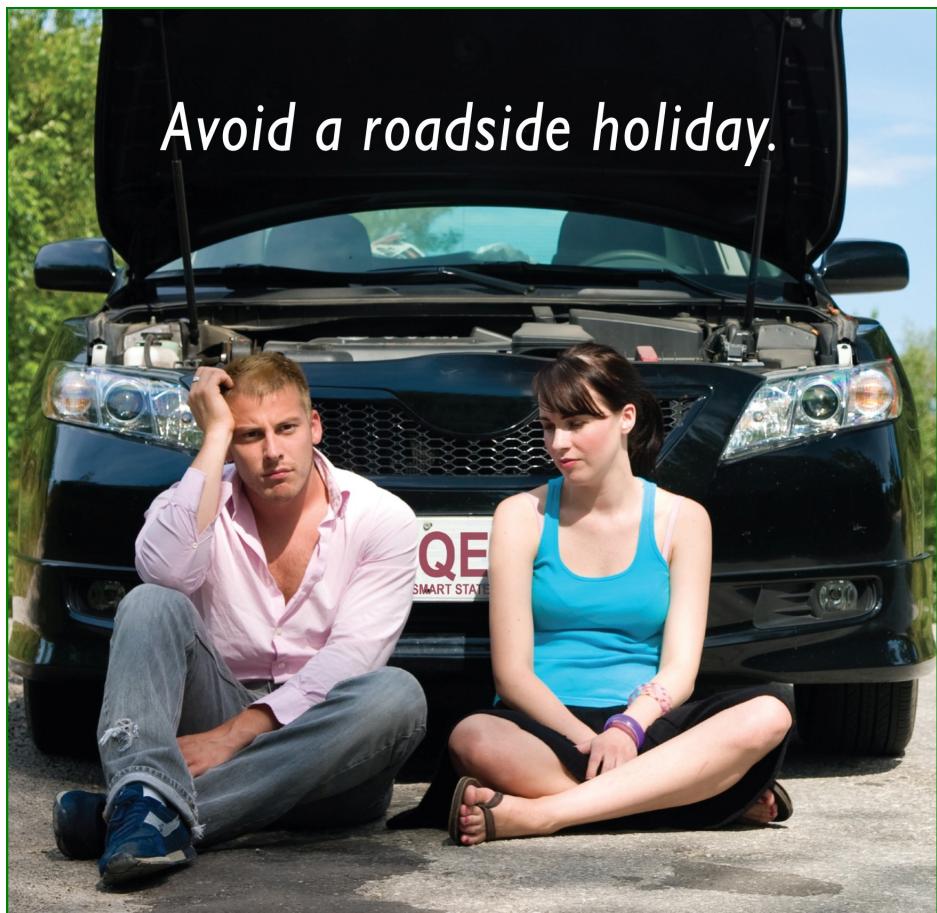
For really tiny joeys a plastic cannula tube attached to a glass syringe is the best idea.

Editor

National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference

This year's conference is being held in Adelaide 22-24 June 2010. There will be about thirty presenters from around Australia including Bob Irwin as a Keynote Speaker. For further information visit their website: www.nwrc.com.au

STOP PRESS - Two Grebe chicks are happily following Mum. *Annie*.



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Eastern Blue-tongued lizard, Tiliqua scincoides subsp. intermedia

Courtesy of Steve Parish Publishing



Central Bearded Dragon, Pogona vitticeps

Courtesy of Steve Parish Publishing