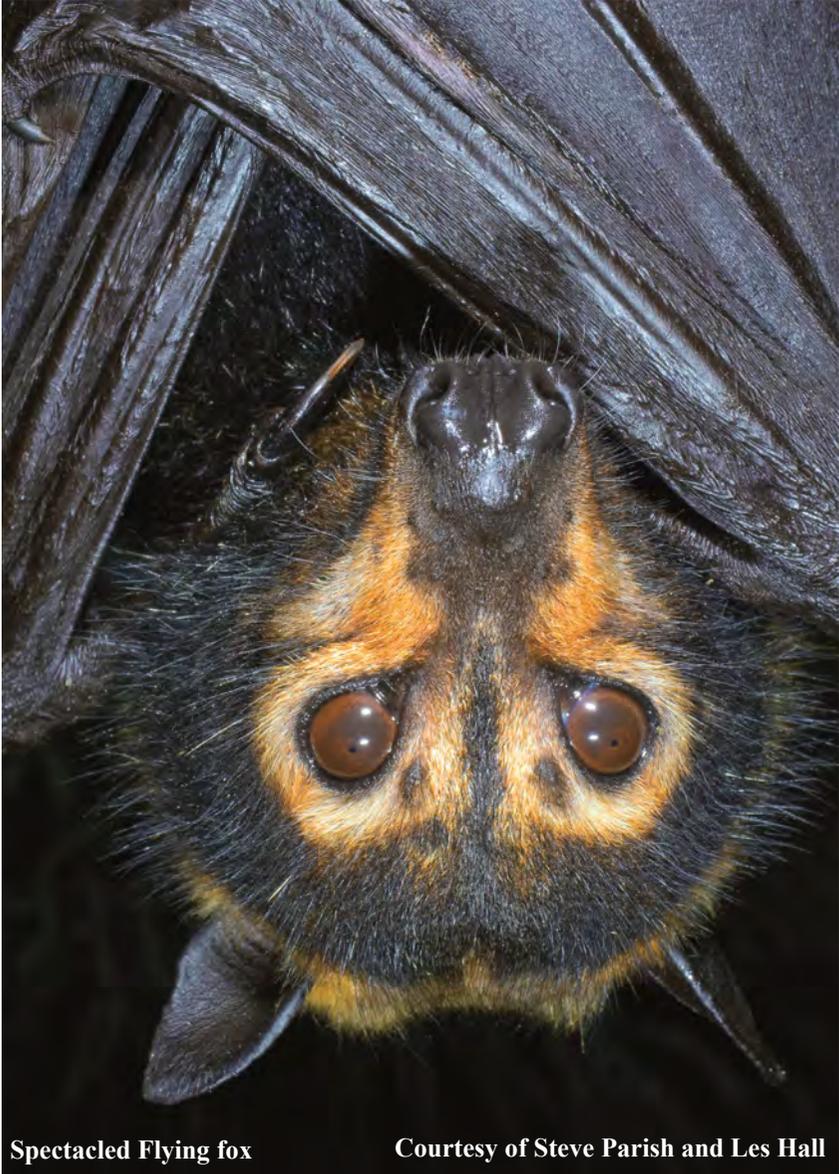


RnR

Rehabilitate and Release

Issue 20
September 2011

Keeping carers
informed



Spectacled Flying fox

Courtesy of Steve Parish and Les Hall

The Wildlife Vet

PBFD In Wild Australian Parrots



What you may see:

- Dirty, off-white feathers
- Pinching of new feathers
- Blood line in feather shaft
- Loss of dander feathers
- Loss of body feathers
- Loss of primary feathers
- Loss of tail feathers
- Beak may be overgrown, shiny or not affected
- Odd coloured feathers in solid colour areas—ie yellow in green feathers



What species that are commonly affected present to vet clinics?

Cockatoos: sulfur-crested, corellas, galahs
 Lorikeets: rainbow, musk, scaly-breasted
 Other parrot species: king parrots, crimson and eastern rosellas

PBFD is short for Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease.
 This is caused by a circovirus.
 The disease is endemic in Australian parrot populations and is a common cause of presentation to vet clinics when birds are no longer coping with their disease.
 The bird becomes susceptible to predation, trauma and starvation.



How is PFBD diagnosed?

Examine the bird for typical feather changes. These include:

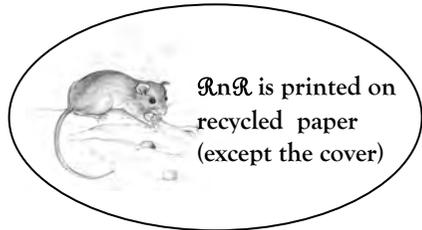
- Bilateral loss of primary feathers and tail feathers in lorikeets
- Loss of dander feathers (with feather pinching) where the femur meets the pelvis. Feather changes occur on the rump first.
- Blood tests are available through most vet laboratories

This information is provided for general information purposes only by
 A veterinary diagnosis is always recommended.
 antowler@bigpond.net.au

In this issue:

- Wildlife Vet – Pbfd Poster
- DERM/RSPCA Partnership
- Hints and Tips
- Carer Profile - Robyn Millington
- Wildlife Rescue – Brushtail possum
- Grow Your Ownmealworms
- Hendra virus
- RSPCA - Wildlife Heroes
- RSPCA - Wacol Animal Campus

RnR is produced by The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council twice a year. It is distributed free to all financial members of QWRC throughout Queensland. To ensure you continue to receive a copy, either by post or email, please ensure you maintain your correct contact details with QWRC to either secretary@qwrc.org.au. or PO Box 488 Archerfield Qld 4108.



**Illustrations
by
Louise Saunders**



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

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Help save a tree or two
Choose to have your **RnR** delivered electronically.
Email: secretary@qwrc.org.au.



QWRC's Best Practice Guidelines for wildlife rehabilitators are available in the member's section of our website www.qwrc.org.au. Please let us know if you can suggest further titles to add to this list:

- 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



From the Chair..

Isn't Mother Nature just amazing! As our last issue went to print the State was still reeling from floods and drenching rain. We waited and now the rebirth has come; the trees that we thought could not survive have again sprouted leaves, the plants have returned from layers of mud and the animals have managed to struggle back. We are constantly witnessing the rebirth of our environment.

For those who may still need financial assistance to rebuild following floods QWRC still has funds available for distribution. Within the latest news section on the front page of our web site you will find the necessary paperwork to download and complete should you wish to take advantage of the funds available.

As we all work through the changes in our lives QWRC is also changing. Through the generous sponsorship of the RACQ QWRC has, for many years, been able to provide our RnR Newsletter free to anyone with an interest in wildlife rehabilitation. This is about to change. RACQ and QWRC are currently exploring new ways to utilize this sponsorship that will offer better benefits to both parties. **QWRC** therefore, from our first issue next year, **will only provide our RnR Newsletter to QWRC members.** All past issues will remain available on our web site but all future issues will only be sent to members and be available through the member's section of our web site.

I was saddened to see that so few took advantage of the chance at our last Cuppa and Chat, to have time to meet with and listen to our Patron, Steve Parish; those

that did attend enjoyed their time. **Our next Cuppa and Chat will be held on Sunday September 25th at 2pm at St Luke's Anglican Church Hall, corner of Ruthven and Herries Streets Toowoomba.** We will be discussing the new Code of practice, how groups can work with each other to advance wildlife rehabilitation and how QWRC can assist in providing access to training for all rehabbers. As this will be the last day of the Carnival of Flowers festival it offers a perfect opportunity for a family day out.

It is our aim that by holding QWRC's AGM at 4pm following the Cuppa and Chat more members will have the opportunity to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

We offer our sincere thanks to all QWRC members and rehabilitation groups who took the time to carefully read and comment on the draft revision of the code of practice. DERM has informed us that the final version of the code of practice should very soon be available to QWRC councillors for our final approval before it goes off to parliament to become legislation. As soon as the process is complete the new version will of course be available on our web site.

As always QWRC looks forward to hearing from all wildlife rehabilitators who may have an issue they feel needs to be addressed. It is through joining your peak body and supporting us that we can support and represent you the rehabbers of Queensland. Together we can address the big issues! Together we can make a difference and have our voices heard.

Till next time *Annie*

Editorial..

By the time you read this Spring will have well and truly sprung. We all know this means lots of babies particularly of the feathered variety. I hope you all manage to cope with the increased workload. There will also be lots of Flying fox babies too and anyone who has ever cared for them knows how endearing they can be.

I hope you like the Flying fox and microbat photos (on the cover) courtesy of our patron, Steve Parish (www.steveparish.com.au.) who was assisted by Les Hall. See page 27 for information on the Hendra virus.

Australian Science writer Julian Cribb argued in a letter to respected journal *Nature* recently that *homo sapiens* was Latin for 'wise man' but was not accurate for modern humans. He said the environmental destruction humans were reaping on the planet proved we were no longer worthy of the name. (*taken from the Sunday Mail*).

Could Hendra virus be a warning to mankind that interference with nature and the environment cannot continue without dire consequences?

How could we survive without the internet these days? I do not spend much time 'surfing' but it is an invaluable communication tool that I would now find it very difficult to live without!

Something I came across recently was an article about longlasting silicone teats being made by someone in WA. I have shared this with you on page 7. I use so many latex teats every week so anything that lasts longer must be worth a trial.

There is information about the new RSPCA/DERM partnership on pages 8/9.

It is currently on track to commence on 1 September but QWRC will keep you informed. Check our website for the latest information www.qwrc.org.au.

The next Australian Wildlife Rehabilitator Conference is being held in Townsville 16-20 July next year. Page 17 has further details of this 'not to be missed' event so make a note now and start saving. I hope to see you all there.

I hope this is not the last time that you will be reading RnR but it will be unless you are a QWRC member. There is a membership form on page 15 with a list of all the benefits on page 14. Just \$20 annual membership is very good value particularly for all the insurance cover that it offers.

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 15 January 2012.

Write to:

The Editor, PO Box 488,
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

Email: editor@qwrc.org.au

I look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Elliott





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Benefit Concert helps Flood Victims

Markus Kellow was involved with a benefit concert to assist flood victims.

Over 500 tickets were sold and the Esplanade Hotel, St Kilda, Victoria venue also donated.

There were three bands involved including "Absolutely live the Doors Show" but the other band members donated to humans while Marcus decided to donate to wildlife.

He did this because "we are animals ourselves, having developed a style of technology which enables us to manipulate the environment to such an extent that we are now at the top of the food chain.

Not only are we at the top, we are way over the top, and have been destroying the homes of other beings in order to make room for our own expanding species and energy hungry lifestyles .

All beings on the planet have a right to be here, this is everyone's home. I disagree with the rapid growth of the human species and the rampage of destruction it causes. However there are few easy solutions to this problem, so I feel that being able to help in any way is the right choice.

That's why I'm happy to donate to wildlife rehabilitation."

A big thank you to Markus for his donation to the QWRC Disaster Fund Appeal.

New Silicone Teats

There are now teats made from non toxic silicone, that outlast the current teats made from latex.

They can be can be boiled or washed in “HOT” water, or soaked in Milton without deforming their shape or going sticky, and can be stored at room temperature. Glen, who is an engineer, also makes syringe teats and teats for other animals.

These new teats are the brightest blue colour, which is a bonus, since they won't be so easily lost and can be seen more easily when they end up in the washing machine! Dummies will also be easy to find and the joeys don't mind that they are blue either. They also stretch over a match stick like the latex ones do, to make a very small hole!

Considering how much we spend on teats, perhaps carers could save many dollars

with these new teats since they last so much longer than the latex teats.

There are eleven different sizes available costing from \$1 to \$5 each.

If you would like more information, please contact Jo and Glen Burston of Maroo Wildlife Refuge, Manjimup, WA.

Their email address is:

dollar.downs@bigpond.com



All proceeds help Jo and Glen's wildlife refuge.

Education - Research - Information

www.everythingwildlife.com.au

www.awrc.org.au

www.bats.org.au

www.kangaroofootprints.com.au

www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.com/WFF/Home.html

www.birdsqueensland.org.au



**DERM - RSPCA partnership
and
Code of Practice review**

Partnership aims

DERM and RSPCA are on the eve of entering into a partnership agreement. The aims of the partnership are to provide an improved response to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and to enhance support for the wildlife care network across Queensland.

This will involve improved coordination of wildlife rescues and calls for assistance and better support for wildlife carers and care groups.

By combining DERM's resources with those of the RSPCA, a more unified and coordinated approach can be given to wildlife care. This will enable DERM to maintain a strong focus on the objectives of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, achieving positive conservation outcomes through wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, and provide RSPCA with the capacity to direct more resources to public calls relating to orphaned, sick or injured wildlife and to support for wildlife rescuers and carers.

DERM and RSPCA consulted the wildlife care community and key stakeholders about the proposed partnership in April/May 2011. Twelve information sessions for wildlife carers were conducted across the State and discussions were held at meetings with stakeholders including the Queensland

Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC), Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) and the Zoo and Aquarium Association Queensland (ZAAQ).

Partnership proposal

Under the terms of the proposed partnership, DERM will refer wildlife rescue calls to RSPCA's 1300 ANIMAL number. RSPCA will then coordinate wildlife rescue and response through the Queensland carer network.

This means that all DERM calls regarding sick, injured or orphaned wildlife (excluding calls concerning cassowaries, crocodiles and C3 bats which will continue to be received by DERM) will go through one centralised contact point. The caller will speak directly to an RSPCA operator who will arrange an appropriate response. Through this improved call response system, the RSPCA will be able to streamline wildlife rescues and reduce response time to assist animals in distress.

Calls will be transferred automatically from the DERM number to the RSPCA's 1300 ANIMAL number. This will mean that members of the public reporting an animal in distress will **not** have to make a second phone call.

Continued on Page 9

DERM and RSPCA agree that the ultimate objective is to improve wildlife welfare and conservation by reducing response times and animal suffering. The rescue of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife will continue to rely on existing carers and carer networks. By recruiting additional 1300 ANIMAL heroes, the partnership will enhance support for wildlife carers by improving response times and helping carers where there is a need.

Under the terms of the proposed partnership, DERM will provide funding to the RSPCA to help support the improved response to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and to contribute to enhanced support for wildlife carers and care groups through means such as the RSPCA facilitating improved networking, communication and training within the carer network.

The partnership will commence on 1 September 2011 and is subject to an initial 12-month trial.

Revised Code of Practice

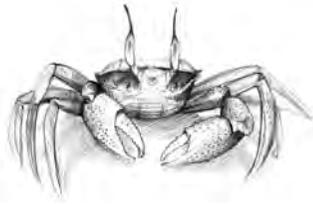
The draft Code of Practice for care of orphaned, sick or injured protected animals in Queensland was released for public comment in May 2011. Wildlife carers and other stakeholders were invited to make submissions via the DERM website.

The code review attracted significant interest within the wildlife care community and DERM would like to thank QWRC and carers for their constructive and thought provoking comments and feedback. The input from QWRC and submissions received will enable DERM to produce an updated, relevant and more user friendly document for wildlife rescuers and carers in Queensland, drawing on the skills and knowledge of carers themselves.

It is also important to mention other organisations that provided valuable comment on the draft Code of Practice, including RSPCA, DEEDI and ZAAQ, along with experts in the field of wildlife genetics, behaviour and disease. The combined input will result in a contemporary and refined Code of Practice which delivers best practice for wildlife in care.

Under the 12-month trial, DERM and RSPCA will investigate the potential for both organisations to jointly administer the revised Code of Practice. The final Code of Practice will be released in the coming months.

Adam Bean
A/Senior Ranger (Wildlife Partnerships)
Wildlife Management Branch
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Environment and
Resource Management



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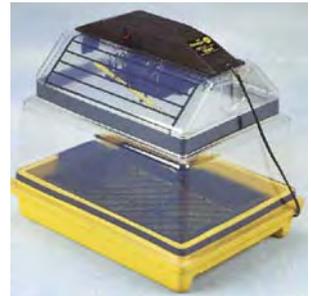
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Hints and Tips (for carers - from carers)

Cheap, easy solution that really works



We all know how important it is that joeys are suspended to allow natural movement and stretching as they would in mum's pouch.

Joeys must never be laid flat. Many carers construct mini pouch stands to fit inside their humidicribs but I have found a simpler way. A plastic perforated waste bin (\$2 shop) with a beanie stretched over the edges which allows the joey's pouch to be suspended inside, as shown. Pegs or mini 6.5cm plastic clamps can be used to secure the beanie if needed.

Note the use of a probe from the indoor/outdoor thermometer (on the top) which should always be used. In this instance my joey's temperature (probe is under the liner) reads 32.3C but the humidicrib thermometer only reads 28C. So if I relied just on the unit thermometer my joey would be much too hot.

I also, for my own peace of mind, prefer to use a probe thermometer with a high/low temperature alarm. This is very useful at night. The one shown is \$39 from Sper Scientific (4773 9444) but there would be others available.

Editor

Beware - QV Bath Oil

A very experienced carer recently had an unfortunate experience using QV Bath Oil which was recommended to her by the pharmacy as being identical to Alpha Keri Oil. It was used on a new furless joey, and when the skin peeled badly she thought it had been overheated by the MOP. She stopped using it when her two existing joeys also had the same problem. The joey also suffered a nasty rash and took several weeks to completely recover but is now doing well.

Some carers believe that it is normal for furless joey's skin to peel! **IT IS NOT.** They need to seek help to review their management practices..

Editor



ABN: 95 930 787 149



Our name is finally on the door and here's heaps of stock in store.

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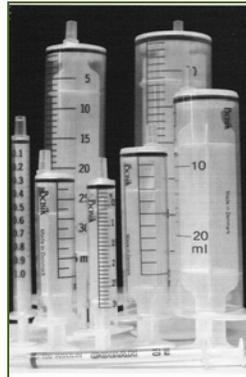
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CONTACTING QWRC

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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. Please ensure you tell us when ever you change your contact details.

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 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



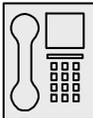
MOVING HOUSE
or changing your email address
Remember to advise QWRC





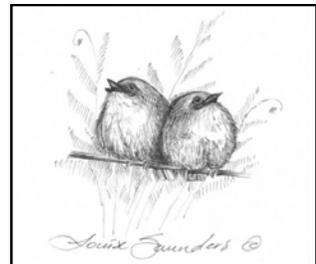
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ◆ Membership of the State representative body.
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- ◆ 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.
- ◆ RnR newsletter twice a year (March and September).
- ◆ QWRC Quotes member's update (January and June).
- ◆ Eligibility to nominate for a position as a QWRC District representative.
- ◆ Eligibility to vote at all QWRC elections.
- ◆ Help to build a strong council to advocate on your behalf.



**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**.



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
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 - WHILE STOCKS LAST

All new and renewal memberships can claim a safety vest . One vest per member. See the member section of the QWRC website to obtain the necessary paperwork. Please enclose postage of \$5.50 for one vest or \$10 for 2-5 vests.

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Date Claimer



The theme of this conference is “Continuous Improvement”

Planning is well underway to provide delegates with the simple North Queensland experience of renewing friendship networks, extending our knowledge, meeting new friends, participating in interesting workshops, and exploring North Queensland’s diverse wildlife opportunities.

Speakers from around Australia will present the latest information on a diverse range of topics.

The conference will commence on Monday 16th July with a traditional optional extra the “Laying of the Dust” from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Conference

delegates are invited to a short evening of light refreshments with the registration desk open. A time to catch up on past contacts, have an orange juice and lay the travellers’ dust.

The conference will open on Tuesday at 9.00am with the registration desk open from 7.30am. A solid day of lectures with an hour walkout lunch. Wednesday will be lectures and workshops, again a walkout lunch. Thursday another full day, walkout lunch finishing early allowing caterers to set up for the optional Dinner.

Finishing Friday, mid afternoon when we come to the end.

Check out their website www.awrc.org.au (click on ‘next conference’) to sign up for email bulletins, to register or obtain other information.

Carer Profile

Meet Robyn Millington who has been dedicated to saving wildlife for many years.



I am sixty years old and live in Bundaberg. I began caring for wildlife in 1981 when we were living on a grazing property just out of Gayndah.

My first experience was with a young female koala that had fallen from a tree and torn the ligaments in her back leg. After many months of physiotherapy and running around every day finding the right leaves for her, I successfully released her back to the wild.

The worst time of my life was about eighteen months ago when two neighbouring dogs got into my paddock

during the night. Inside were my Eastern grey roos, fourteen months, eight months and an injured female with joey, seven months. They were all mauled and terrified so much they had to be euthanased. The memory is still very vivid today.

My best experience was with Noah. He was brought to me as a bloodied, bruised five month old Eastern grey covered in dog bites, scratches, mud and saliva. The man's dog was found throwing him around as if he was a rag doll, and he was such a mess! I cleaned him up and then placed him in the humidicrib. Each time I went to feed and toilet him, I expected him to be dead. To my surprise, after four months of TLC, he came out of the crib. He has now joined a mob and is happily back in the bush with no side effects from all his trauma. What a little fighter he is.

I have just begun working with the RSPCA as an Educator, which involves speaking to school children, groups & organisations about the work of the RSPCA and promoting awareness on good, responsible pet ownership. This also includes how to have pets and be responsible with our native wildlife, e.g. how to have your pets in your backyard and also be wildlife friendly ensuring that the wildlife are safe and secure with your animals co-existing in your area.

Continued on Page 19

Carer Profile continued...

I also do talks on subjects such as "how to prevent a dog bite", "how to be a responsible pet owner" and many more.

I still do talks at schools and other groups on our native wildlife with the RSPCA and PetPEP, which I have been doing for many years. I love doing these activities as children are very interested in our wildlife and, as they are our future, the existence of native wildlife is in their hands. The more we can educate them, the better the chance for our wildlife having a future in this country for many more years to come.

Robyn Millington



Important message to all RnR readers

Do you enjoy your copy of QWRC's RnR Newsletter? Do you find the articles interesting and look forward to receiving your next issue? Till now generous sponsorship by RACQ has enabled us to send this publication to any interested person for free of charge. RACQ's sponsorship of QWRC is now to follow a different path. If you are not and do not remain a current financial member of QWRC then this is the last issue of QWRC's RnR Newsletter you will be receiving. The March 2012 issue will be the first that is only available to financial members of QWRC.

BONUS - all new memberships received will be extended to 31 December 2012 expiry.

A membership form is available on page 15 or print one from our website www.qwrc.org.au. Sign-up today to ensure you do not miss an issue and remain a well-informed Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitator.

Wildlife Rescue - Suzy the Brushtail Possum

Rodenticides are commonly used in suburban homes to control the occurrence of rats and mice. Its mode of action is to prevent the animals blood from clotting and so the animal eventually bleeds to death. For safety of wildlife and native pets rodenticides are usually made so that several meals need to be consumed and the bait is enclosed so that only rat sized animals can enter and feed.



The RSPCA Qld Wildlife Hospital is seeing more and more patients that are suffering the ill effects of rodenticide poisoning. Suzy and her baby are currently in care for this exact reason. She presented with drooped ears, very lethargic, weak, ataxic and with white mucous membranes but with no obvious signs of external trauma. When we checked her pouch we noticed internal bleeding and bruising evident in her abdomen which showed through the pouch membranes. The finder had

recently laid bait for a rat problem and hadn't thought about the possibility of other animals being effected. The pieces all fit for a diagnosis of poisoning. On further veterinary inspection her blood had a PCV (Packed Cell Volume) of 9 which is very low. She required an immediate blood transfusion from an appropriate donor and is currently two weeks into her six weeks of vitamin K therapy. Luckily Suzy's baby was not old enough to be tasting the things mum was eating and so does not need to be treated.

After three weeks in care Suzy will begin a soft release program whilst still receiving oral medication. We have organised the finder to have the release trailer on her property for the duration of Suzy's soft release. Being a territorial Brushtail Possum it is so important to get her back to her own territory. The finder has promised to remove the bait and instead use humane traps in the future. To be on the safe side we will conduct a letterbox drop in the local area asking people to change their method of rodent control to give Suzy the best chance on her return to the wild.

Leonie Rickard
Senior Wildlife Officer
RSPCA Queensland





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Know Thy Acronym

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| AWRC | - | Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference |
| PFBD | - | Psittacine Beak and Feather disease |
| DERM | - | Dept of Environment and Resource Management |
| DEEDI | - | Dept of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation |
| ZAAQ | - | Zoo and Aquarium Association of Queensland |

Grow your own Mealworms

Mealworms are an easily reared food source for many birds and their cultivation is rather straightforward. You will need the following:

- Any large container with steep smooth walls, such as plastic icecream containers, plastic buckets or an old aquarium (Note: if using an aquarium worms will escape up the silicone at the inside corner joints, so a cover such as some flyscreen can be used.)
- A couple of containers of regular mealworms from Australian Wildlife Supplies. This is a small outlay of funds if you can get your mealworm colony continually producing.
- Some unprocessed bran flakes from Australian Wildlife Supplies (20kg only) or your local supermarket. (Note: not the All-Bran looking stuff but unprocessed natural bran.) An old hessian sack, or towel or similar material.

Most successful mealworm colonies seem to be kept on a single-container principle ie all growth stages (mealworms, pupae and beetles) are maintained together for both breeding and continuous collection of mealworms for feeding. (Note: leave some worms to turn into beetles.)

The container should be filled to within two or three inches of the top with bran. A few teaspoons of wheat germ or flour can be added. Always leave the lid off the container, or use a well ventilated lid if escape by mealworms is possible, otherwise condensation will create a problem. If the bran mixture becomes wet, it will become a sticky mess and the whole colony will slowly die.

Next add the mealworms. Place a layer of newspaper on the top. Place some vegetable (best is carrot) or fruit scraps (best is banana) on the newspapers as a source of water and food for the mealworms, then place the sack on the top. Additional food is added to the colony from time to time, and it is usually necessary to clean out the container every few months. Gauge how much food your mealworms are eating, try not to overfeed. This can result in the scraps spoiling, going mouldy and the decline your colony. So keep an eye on them every few days.

The beetles begin laying five to ten days after hatching. Each female lays 350 to 400 eggs during her lifecycle. The eggs hatch in eight to nine days and remain as larvae (mealworms) for nine to twelve weeks.

If you find you have an abundance of mealworms, growth can be safely arrested for at least six weeks by placing a small container of them in your refrigerator. This container should be

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half filled with dry bran and covered with plastic to retard dehydration.

cool spot or keeping them warm in winter.

(Tip: the plastic Pisces containers can be recycled for this purpose.) The hibernating' mealworms should be taken out once a fortnight or so for a full day in order to be fed.

(Tip: to enhance the nutrient level of your mealworms use Passwell Insect Booster available from Australian Wildlife Supplies)

Mealworms grow the fastest in hot weather so the growth of the colony can be controlled by either placing them in a

Culturing Mealworms was sourced from B.I.R.O. (Birds, Injured, Rehabilitated, Orphaned) wildlife carers manual.



Photo: www.ataglance.com.au

- the **first mealworm** has just moulted - shed its skin. It does this 9-20 times during 12-54 days before pupating.
- the **second mealworm** has weathered skin.
- the **third** is the pupa stage during which it does not eat for days. The pupa starts out white and grows darker for the length of pupation, approximately 10-30 days (depending on the temperature). Many people understandably call them 'aliens' at this stage.
- the **fourth** stage is the adult - beetle stage. When they first come out of the pupa, they are white then transform to reddish brown and after about 4 hours they turn to black.

They live 60-90 days as beetles. (Source: Wikipedia)

Hendra Virus

Flying Foxes and Hendra Virus

Hendra virus occasionally causes diseases in humans. Although the disease can be transmitted from horses to humans, there is no evidence that it can be transmitted directly from flying foxes to humans.

The virus was first isolated in 1994 in horses at a racing stable in the suburb of Hendra, Brisbane.

Flying foxes are a natural host for Hendra virus. The spread of Hendra virus from flying foxes to horses is not yet fully understood. However, the virus has been found in the urine, placental material, aborted fetuses and birthing fluids of flying foxes.

Ongoing research is continually increasing our knowledge about this disease.

Protection of People

There is no evidence of human-to-human or flying fox-to-human spread of Hendra virus. All human infections have been the result of very close contact with infected horses, in particular direct exposure to tissues and secretions from infectious live or dead horses.

People are urged to be extremely vigilant if their horse displays rapid onset of illness such as increased body temperature/fever, increased heart rate and rapid deterioration associated with either respiratory or nervous signs.

Protection of horses

Flying foxes often visit properties where native eucalypts, bottlebrushes,

lilly-pillies, figs and melaleucas are flowering.

Blossoms are their primary source of food. They will also feed on palm seeds and exotic fruits when native food is less abundant. Horse owners can take steps to reduce the risk of their horses becoming infected with Hendra virus.

It is vitally important to follow good biosecurity and hygiene practices even if you do not know of flying fox colonies in the area.

Control of flying foxes

Flying foxes and flying fox roosts are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Any unauthorised attempts to disturb flying fox colonies are not only illegal but also ineffective.

Flying foxes are very mobile animals and occur in most areas of Queensland. They occupy daytime campsites that vary in location, but are commonly found in vegetation along rivers and creeks. Some species, such as the little red flying fox, are migratory and fly long distances across Queensland following food sources, such as flowering trees. They usually move on when the food source is gone.

There has been much debate about the role of flying foxes in the spread of this disease; however, culling flying foxes is not an effective way to reduce Hendra virus risk.

See our website www.qwrc.org.au for a link to an unedited version of this article plus Hendra virus updates from Biosecurity Queensland.

QWRC Disaster Relief Fund

The Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council established a Disaster Fund in 2009 to assist wildlife carers who have been affected by any natural disaster with a small donation. Application forms are on our website and available to all members. These funds are separate from our working financial account, and distributed on the direction of our three trustees as all Public Trust Fund monies need their approval. This year the Disaster fund has been augmented by some wonderful donations donated in the aftermath of our State's adverse weather events. All of the applications for support received by QWRC have been finalised.

If you were adversely affected by the floods or cyclones and are only now getting back on your feet, applications for financial assistance for wildlife facility restoration or repair will remain open until February 1st 2012 a year after Cyclone Yasi. Any monies remaining after distribution will remain in the Public Trust Fund in the case of any future catastrophes.

Contact secretary@qwrc.org.au if you need further information.

Reminder

Our next Cuppa and Chat will be held on Sunday September 25th at 2pm at St Luke's Anglican Church Hall, corner of Ruthven and Herries Streets, Toowoomba. We hope to meet lots of members and also wildlife carers seeking information about QWRC. This will be followed by our AGM and then our normal monthly meeting which all members are most welcome to attend.





Wildlife Heroes Required

From September it is planned that the RSPCA call centre will be receiving the majority of the wildlife calls previously taken by the DERM wildlife hotline 1300 130372. When callers ring the DERM number, their call will be automatically directed to the RSPCA's call centre which operates 24 hours a day 7 days a week. All callers will be able to speak with a call centre operator; in contrast the DERM hotline is currently an answering machine type service which provides recorded details only with no person to person contact.

When a caller rings to report an injured, sick or orphaned native animal the RSPCA operator will search the database to find the nearest and most appropriate rescuer to deal with the situation.

We are calling on all wildlife carers to register their details with the RSPCA in order to provide a comprehensive statewide database for the rescue of native animals. The more carers we are able to have listed on our database the more successful this program will be.

We do ring groups as well as individuals when appropriate, however not all groups are created equal and in some instances groups are not available to attend a rescue.

If you would like to register your details please contact me and I will send you out a registration form either by email or post. We are currently developing an online registration system which should be available from our web page sometime in October 2011.

Annette Colling
**Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation
Coordinator, RSPCA Queensland**



WANTED: Information/links to websites that would be beneficial to wildlife rehabilitators. List will be collated and included with AWRC handout next year and available on QWRC website. Please send to secretary@qwrc.org.au with reference 'AWRC handout'.

RSPCA Animal Care Campus at Wacol

RSPCA Queensland's new Animal Care Campus at Wacol is in the final stages of construction, and is on target to open late this year. The facility includes a purpose-built wildlife hospital, which will assist in providing care to the 8000-10000 wildlife patients per year it is expected to receive.



The hospital will provide state of the art surgical, medical and rehabilitation care for patients, and will accept patients around the clock. Like the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital will provide veterinary consultations for carers and will provide a much-needed service in the central and western areas of SEQ.

The wildlife department is expected to double its staff levels over the coming year to meet the needs of wildlife admissions and wildlife carers. Click on the following link to see a fly-over of the new facilities.....

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RSPCAQLD#p/u/12/xQJ6EX56e7s>.

Jon Hanger
Manager
Wildlife Operations
RSPCA Qld





Eastern Horseshoe Bat
and
Northern Blossom Bat

both courtesy of Steve
Parish and Les Hall

