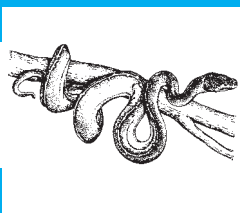
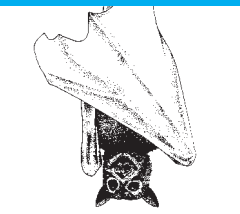


RnR

A newsletter for
wildlife carers

Issue 7 • January 2005

Rehabilitate and Release



Flying the bats to safety!

by Jenny MacLean

The spectacled flying fox population on the Atherton Tablelands has suffered from tick paralysis every year since the mid-1980s.

It is believed a change in foraging behaviour to include wild tobacco, *Solanum mauritianum*, has allowed the bats to come in contact with the ticks.

The ticks affect the bats from September to December, which are also the months in which the young are born.

Consequently there are often large numbers of orphans needing care.

Last year was one of the worst since carers became aware of the problem in 1990.

More than 230 orphans went through Tolga Bat Hospital from two colonies — Tolga Scrub and Whiteing Road — in six weeks.

About half this number again were handled through Batreach in Kuranda and Far North Queensland Wildlife Rescue.

All local carers in the Cairns/Tablelands area became “full” and so EPA approval was sought to move some south.

Initially the thought was to move them to Townsville. However, as the numbers continued to grow, approval was sought to move them to Brisbane and Rockhampton.

Fortunately for these orphans (and volunteers at the bat hospital!), there were many willing carers in these areas.

This willingness, coupled with a very quiet flying fox season for south-east Queensland, meant that



SPECIAL DELIVERY...the orphans get ready for their trip south

the movement of orphans was possible.

Step in Bat Rescue Inc. from Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. (RnR readers may remember an article about them in the last issue.)

With a lot of organisation from Bat Rescue Inc and co-operation from EPA and Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC), the orphan airlift began.

The orphans were transported in a 65cm x 40cm x 40cm plastic storage box.

We drilled airholes in the box and built a mezzanine floor of wire mesh.

This allowed us to transport two layers (or 25–30) of nappy-wrapped orphans at a time.

Australian Air Express was very supportive and offered us half price for flying the bats south, and free-of-charge return of boxes.

In all, 92 orphans were transported to Brisbane in three shipments and 25 orphans to Rockhampton in one shipment.

The 25 to Townsville went by road. All orphans arrived in good condition.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was drawn up between EPA, QWRC, Tolga Bat Hospital and carers taking orphans. This measure was considered necessary to ensure all orphans were accounted for, and the precautionary principle was followed for the caring of species outside its geographical area (i.e. risk of disease).

All orphans will be returned to Tolga Bat Hospital before they are old enough to fly.

Watch for the next issue of RnR to hear how the flight home and subsequent release goes.

We apologise for the delay in producing this edition of RnR.

Our efforts have been concentrated on producing the draft koala conservation plan. Please visit www.eqa.qld.gov.au and have a look!
Debra Hotchkis

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Editorial

As I packed away the Christmas decorations for another year, I reflected on how our holiday season affected the environment. With the increased activity on our roads and in our suburbs, it follows that the interaction between our wildlife and us also increases.

Helping the animals that were injured or orphaned during this time (and indeed, any time) recover and return to the wild is what caring is all about.

An early assessment of whether these animals can be rehabilitated is important for both welfare and conservation reasons.

No one wants to see an animal suffer, which is why euthanasia may sometimes be the best course of action.

Euthanasia is considered appropriate to stop the animal's suffering, if further treatment is not practical or recovery is not expected such that the animal can be

successfully rehabilitated to the wild and, when there is a reasonable expectation that the animal will not be suitable for return to the wild.

And, with a constrained habitat, it's important that only the fittest, most viable animals take up that space.

Deciding to euthanasia an animal is always tough. However, that decision could save the animal ongoing pain and a poor quality of life — aspects that good rehabilitation practice is designed to avoid.

As always, we have a great edition full of interesting articles.

There's a great story by Beverly Betts about her life as an RSPCA ambulance officer and a yarn about a little echidna with a "magnetic" personality!

And last but not least, you should by now have seen or heard about our new *The Carer's Kit* CD. Enjoy!

'til next time,
Leslie Shirreffs

Pick up a carer's kit!

Carers had an extra gift in their Christmas stocking with the release of an interactive CD on wildlife care in December.

The EPA has developed the CD, entitled The Carer's Kit, with a team of multi-media students from Griffith University.

The CD contains loads of useful information on all aspects of caring for native wildlife.

The CD has been sent to wildlife groups.

Please contact your group to have a copy produced.

The CD will only be released once but QPWS will continue to provide up-to-date and relevant information on The Carer's Kit website at www.epa.qld.gov.au.

Carers can send pics and information to Debra Hotchkis for inclusion on this website.

Can you lend a hand?

by Julie Firkins

This year Queensland will be hosting the third annual national conference for wildlife carers.

The conference is a wonderful opportunity for learning and the sharing of ideas, knowledge and experience.

However, the organisation is a huge job and we need your help.

The steering committee is inviting input from all groups and individual permit holders in Queensland into one or more of the many tasks needing to get done.

Please, don't let the side down – lend a hand and join the fun.

If you would like to help out in any way please contact Julie Firkins on (07) 3822 2248 or 0400 850 588.

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Contributions

Please forward all letters and contributions to:

Debra Hotchkis
Wildlife Ranger
QPWS, PO Box 3454,
Burleigh Town LPO,
Burleigh Heads QLD 4220.

E-mail:
debra.hotchkis@epa.qld.gov.au

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Environment Minister, the Environmental Protection Agency or the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Conference wrap-up

by Janet Gamble

About 200 delegates from across Australia attended the national wildlife carers conference at Penrith in July.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service New South Wales and The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) were the major supporters, with IFAW offering to extend its support to the 2005 conference.

Federal MP for Lindsay Jackie Kelly delivered the opening address, speaking about the impact rubbish has on the environment. Did you know that six million tones enters the ocean each year?!

The guest speaker was Karen Trendler, founder and director of The Wildcare Africa Trust.

Karen spoke passionately about the illegal trade in wildlife.

Paper presentations started with Dr Rupert Woods, co-ordinator of the Australian Wildlife Health Network, who gave an introduction to how the network operates.

I thought the conference dinner was a great hoot as I won a lucky door prize!

All in all there was a wide range of papers and workshops generating much sharing of information.

This type of networking is crucial to push the standards of wildlife care a notch higher and beneficial for wildlife and carers alike.

The conference papers can be downloaded from www.fauna.org.au.

Profile

by Robyn Stenner

The day begins at 6.30 am, with a wildlife call.

Question is, can I afford to skip my 8am lecture to tend to yet another baby ringtail possum that has been attacked by a cat, or do I refer this one into some other "lucky" carer?

Much of the time that decision depends on whether I can reach other, super-busy carers.

Then there are the calls which I have to leave lectures to attend, resulting in my permanent positioning in the aisle seats nearest the door!

As with any lifestyle, wildlife caring while studying to be a vet is an incredible blessing and privilege, but one which is also time-consuming, heart-wrenching and bank-breaking!

The animal skills which I have gained in my five years as a wildlife carer have put me far ahead of other vet students who



have only healthy pets living in their homes.

Caring also makes you more alert, and able to pick up on subtle signs that all is not well with an animal.

I am now in 3rd year studies, and beginning to see theory which I am learning in the animals I am rescuing and raising.

It may sound strange, but the first time that I recognized a "disease with a name from a lecture" was scary and exciting.

Recently I received a ringtail possum who had been hit by a car and her two 16g babies.

She had been in the full sun all day, on the hottest

day so far this summer. She made it through the night with subcutaneous fluid injections, and some lifesaving homeopathy.

After 24 hours it became clear that she had some neurological damage, and after going through my notes I "diagnosed" her with trauma to the vestibular part of the brain involved in balance etc, either due to bleeding or inflammation.

According to my notes she had a slight chance of recovering, but treatment options were limited to dexamethasone shots and rest.

The next few days were spent encouraging her to drink and eat, and caring for her babies as best I could (cleaning the pouch with warm water, and a little bit of macadamia oil).

She was doing so well, making some gradual recovery, but on her fourth day when I took her out to tend to the babies, it became apparent that she was in trouble (one of her pupils had dilated again).

I went ahead with the cleanout, but when I checked her later she had died.

The hardest part was euthanasing the babies, who were not viable.

Still, at least they didn't die of cold and hunger in the gutter.

Every time wildlife dies in my care, I try to learn something from them about why my efforts failed, and also medically what went wrong or why the animal could not be saved.

In this way I feel that their death is not as pointless, and I can improve as a carer.

It is not only the sad stories, but also the happy ones which keep me going and get raised eyebrows from class mates when I say that I only have 12 animals at the moment! Most people don't understand what keeps us carers coming back for more.

Yes, it is the happy releases of hand-raised orphans, but even in the sad cases, there is still a realization that you have helped.

QWRC contact details

Annie Saunders – Rockhampton (chair)

annie.saunders@iinet.net.au

Gail Gipp – Gold Coast (vice chair)

Gail@australiazoo.com.au

Vicky Dawson – Maclean (treasurer)

vicky@rockpress.com.au

Len Beikoff – Brisbane

brolga@qldnet.com.au

Mike Holmes – Esk

faunal@bigpond.com

Pat Hendrickson – Mackay

armiehen@mcs.net.au

Eleanor Pollock – Townsville

aachilpa@bigpond.com

Annabelle Olsson – Cairns

boongarry@austarnet.com.au

Greg McDougall – DPI&F

greg.mcdougall@dpi.qld.gov.au

Janet Gamble – RSPCA

jpgamble@rspcaqld.org.au

Julie Firkins – WPSQ (secretary)

wildlife@bigpond.net.au

Debra Hotchkis – QPWS

debra.hotchkis@epa.qld.gov.au

How to raise a macropod

When she

joined the local WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service) branch in 2000, Cheryl Dooley became involved in administration and wildlife care. She quickly moved from macropod care to Macropod Support Team Member (specialising in eastern greys) to Macropod Co-ordinator.

Cheryl has written two non-fiction books and hundreds of articles, so seeing the need for an updated care manual, she set about putting one together.

Macropology is the result. The current edition, finalised in July 2004, contains almost 53,000

words, many photographs, useful

charts and tables and a reference guide that

links you to more publications on macropod care.

For a copy, visit <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~dooleydy/macropology/macropologyx.html>

Q fever – your questions answered

What is Q fever?

Q fever produces a sudden, severe illness in humans similar to the flu.

The germ is an unusual and very small organism that infects animals but does not cause apparent disease in them.

About one third of people with Q Fever are hospitalised, mainly due to the effects on the heart. Deaths are rare.

Between 10 and 20 percent of people have prolonged fatigue. In a few cases, this is severe enough to prevent people working for the rest of their lives.

Is it common in Queensland?

About one-half of Australian cases of Q fever occur in Queensland, with about nine people affected each year per 100,000 population.

This can be as high as 200 per 100,000 people in some rural shires.

Q fever is one of the most common diseases that humans catch from animals.

How could I get the disease?

The organism lives in a variety of domestic and wild animals, especially cattle, sheep, goats, **bandicoots, kangaroos and wallabies**.

Q fever can be spread to other animals and people by the inhalation of infective material from placental tissues and fluids.

Human infection can also occur through the ingestion of unpasteurised milk and by contact with infected animals, their waste products, or contaminated straw, wool, hair and hides.

The germ resists drying and can live in dust for many months.

It has been spread up to one kilometre by the wind.

Ticks may spread the germ between animals, but rarely, if ever, spread it to people.

Are any groups at particular risk?

As the organisms which cause this disease are most plentiful in the uterus and udder of pregnant cattle, goats and sheep, the most at risk are

animal handlers, farmers, veterinarians and veterinary nurses, abattoir workers, meat inspectors and biological researchers working with pregnant animals.

Goats are probably the greatest risk to people.

Where does the disease occur?

The disease occurs in most parts of the world and throughout Queensland.

It does not occur in New Zealand.

What treatments are available?

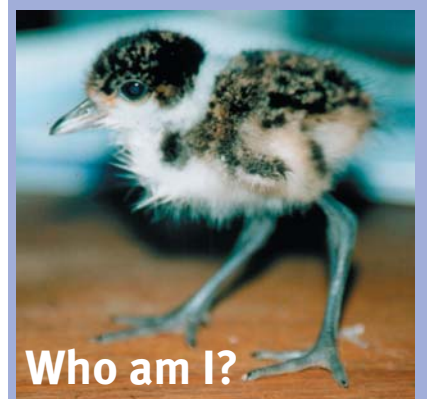
Antibiotics such as tetracycline are the preferred treatment and recovery from the infection is usually rapid.

When the heart is affected, prolonged antibiotic treatment is necessary.

What are the keys to prevention?

- Strict hygienic practices must be followed when pregnant animals, hides, wool, straw, or other contaminated material are handled. This involves the prevention of inhalation of contaminated dust or fluid droplets, adequate disinfection and disposal of material, and prompt treatment of cuts and abrasions.
- Placental and other birth material should be burnt or buried. Contaminated litter should be burnt.
- Milk should be pasteurised or boiled.
- A vaccine has been developed in Australia to immunise high-risk groups against Q fever.
- It is most important for anyone with flu-like symptoms who is likely to have had contact with infected animals to seek medical advice, stating clearly that contact with the Q fever organisms has possibly occurred.

This information was developed jointly by Queensland Health and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.



Congratulations to Geoff Saunders of Wandal on winning the Who am I? July competition. The answer was a tawny frogmouth.

The new clue:

My parents scream day and night

As they are very protective of my siblings and I

For the first week or two we are hard to see

As we hide in the undergrowth

Please send answers to Debra Hotchkis – details page 2

Volunteers wanted!

My name is

Deborah

Turnbull.

I am a wildlife

carer, and

over the

years I have

come to

realise that

I do a lot of

community

environmental

education.

Other carers seem to agree. So, I

enrolled in a PhD at Griffith University

to explore the topic further.

Now, I need carers to be a part of the

project.

It does not matter what you care for or

how long you've been doing it, all

contributions are welcome.

I believe we make a unique contribution

to community environmental education

and I want to hear about the

contribution that is uniquely yours.

You will be asked to respond to written

questionnaires spread over a few

months (April to August 2005).

For further information, contact me at

d.turnbull@griffith.edu.au or on

(07) 3266 1323.



Ever wondered what it would like to be...

by Beverley Betts

Let me start by saying that there's no such thing as a "normal" day in the life of an RSPCA Animal Ambulance Officer!

Anyone who's ever had dealings with animals will know that they are unpredictable and completely unable to understand the concepts of "schedules" and "time management".

The start

An "average" day begins at 6:30am, which is when I arrive at work.

I get there early so that I can get a cup of coffee — I never know if I'm going to get another chance later!

The Night Watchman fills me in on any ambulance calls that may have already come in and I quickly check that all my equipment is accounted for and working. The ambulance covers from Dakabin, Loganholme and Ipswich.

At 7am the emergency phone lines switch on (they will stay on for the next 15 hours).

Rush hour

The early morning calls come from joggers, dog walkers and those dedicated few trying to beat the morning gridlock. Often it's the nocturnal animals, such as possums and tawny frogmouths, that have had misadventures during the night and are found on roads or cowering in parks.

Sometimes there are bats on the wire of train station carparks.

Today, as with most days, there is a call about a dog that has been hit by an early commuter.

I receive a call from a factory worker who has found a feral cat with its head stuck in the drainage hole of an industrial bin (easily fixed with some

lubricant and gentle persuasion) and one about a litter of unwanted kittens dropped on the doorstep of an office building.

These are all picked up according to priority and brought back to the RSPCA Shelter for immediate vet treatment.

By now, the shelter staff are filing in, rubbing their eyes, but I'm already up to my neck in catching poles, cat cages, bird nets and gloves.

The morning rush hour brings a few more unfortunate road casualties and our call centre operators are calling for expert advice on animal behaviour and how to extract animals from tricky situations.

Morning tea is out of the question as rising temperatures have caused an elderly dog to collapse in a worried caller's garden and shoppers are discovering that animals have been locked in cars all over Brisbane.

Lunchtime

By lunchtime, I've collected the usual suspects — crows, magpies, pigeons and ibis and restored the dignity of a kookaburra trapped in somebody's pool filter.

An hour or so later, the Pound is sick of hearing from me and I've reunited a bird owner with a cockatiel that crashlanded behind the built-in wall oven.

Soon after, a dog has jammed its head between the neighbour's fence palings and there's a cat down a road drain, up a tree or on a roof (sometimes all three in one shift!).

Lunch is drive-through on the way to retrieve ducklings from a drain (under the watchful eye of Mum) and pick up a stray cat with a nasty fight wound or tick paralysis for our vet.

an RSPCA ambo?



HELP IS AT HAND...(above) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service helps Bev with a cat stuck up a very tall tree and (below) the rescuer becomes the rescued when Bev is towed out of the mud after saving an ibis from a sticky end

I return via another suburb to get a sick puppy that's been found wandering.

Home

The evening Ambulance Officer comes on at 3pm and will work until 10pm, staying longer if the calls keep streaming in.

The night shift brings its own challenges as the evening rush will encounter more animals running into the path of cars and the nocturnal creatures come out to play. Often school children find birds entangled in fishing line or rubbish and an injured, stray cat or dog will undoubtedly turn up in the suburbs for an evening

meal at someone's doorstep.

As an Animal Ambulance Officer, there's no time to get complacent because you're always five minutes away from a call-out, whether it be to a horse that's broken its leg, a cow that's fallen in a dam, a deer that's tangled in a fence, a kangaroo, pelican, ostrich, pig, peacock, python — anything!

As I said, there's no such thing as a normal day. However, with all its stress and chaos, tears and joy, I wouldn't trade this job for anything else!

Echidna tracked on Magnetic Island

by Eleanor Pollock

In December 2003 an echidna puggle was transported on the Magnetic Island passenger ferry to Townsville.

The tiny blob had been found on a roadway at the local dump and taken to a Maggie Island wildlife carer for attention and then forwarded on to me.

The plan was for the animal to be raised and released back onto her island home.

She was a very simple rearing activity – keep her clean comfortable and fed and watch her pile on the weight!

Her initial weight was 94g and although she dropped a little on days 1 and 2, by her day 3 she had decided that Wombaroo <30 was the way to go.

On the road to recovery

Once she had mastered the knack of not rolling over on to her back to feed, she was away. I initially kept her rolled up in her cloth but by January 10 at 146g she had progressed to a cat cage lined with dirt and leaf litter.

I transitioned her, following the Wombaroo directions, on to >30 over a two week period and by the end of February she was 328g and drinking 30mls a feed.

I was feeding her every 36–48 hours by now. She continued to make an uneventful steady growth increase. Occasionally I had to leave her with another carer while I travelled out of town and she figured as long as she was fed, it didn't matter by who!

Mid-April she moved outside to her enclosure, a

1.2m square plastic bin, sold to me at a very reduced price by a local firm that specialised in feed bins for cattle and plastic water tanks.

I filled the bin with 30cm of soil and litter, placed some heavy logs and a water bowl in it, made it a tent roof to keep out the rain and she was

back into her home area. Research indicates that echidnas can loose 30 percent of their body weight on release so I began adding a small amount of Wombaroo insectivore powder to her milk ration. (I am wary of doing this as I lost an echidna at 700 grams with

gut impaction
(confirmed
on



delighted to explore a new environment. Whenever we travelled out of town we went with a bucket and collected active termite nests and loaded her enclosure with these.

She did lots of sniffing but I never saw her break any of these mounds open.

In no time I was having to tap the bin and disturb the dirt where she was dug in to find her for a feed.

On the occasion when I had to travel out of town again I appreciated the help of fellow wildlife carer Debbie who would drop in to feed her every two days.

Considering release

She weighed a kilogram in late June and I started to approach the local Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers to see if we could release her with some tracking gear

(autopsy) so I never added more than a level teaspoon of powder to the 60mls of milk.)

Time to say goodbye

We glued six bright pink plastic straws on her spines as a visual aid for identification and location.

The Townsville-based rangers Mike Pople and Andrew Murrell did all the hard work of getting the tracking gear and all appreciation to Janet Gamble from RSPCA for her assistance here.

Despite heaps of e-mails and phone calls, we did not have a lot of success with learning a specific technique on how to attach a tracking cylinder to an echidna.

Lots of advice was received from EPA researchers and James Cook University scientists (the logical

choice as Dr Peggy Rismiller was unavailable).

On September 16 “Gough” (1750g), my husband and I (weight not recorded) travelled by ferry back to Magnetic Island, collected the two local rangers and found the Austens who had sent her to me nine months ago.

The rangers had received advice on setting up her new home (take her familiar log, two bins of her dirt and an artificial shelter), which we followed.

The log was placed in a depression dug into the soil in a sheltered spot at the base of a hill on private land away from habitation. Her soil was distributed over the log so as the area would have a familiar smell.

She initially made little forays away from her log, returning and then setting out further afield; tracking showed that she stayed in the area for six days then literally headed for the hills.

By day 9 she had dislodged her transmitter and made it over the large hill backing on to her new turf.



THE JOURNEY... “Gough” the echidna at 200-300g (top) and QPWS rangers test the release equipment (bottom)



Thanks to koala carers

by Scott Hetherington
Koala carers Karen Scott and Leigh Koppman have been working closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) South Coast rangers towards the conservation of koalas in the region.

Karen and Leigh are active wildlife carers who, like many others, spend remarkable amounts of time and energy rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife.

However, they have also initiated processes aimed at enhancing the benefits of their koala rescue and rehabilitation efforts through a variety of opportunities developed with local QPWS rangers. These include ensuring that accurate records of koalas that come into care, or are sighted as healthy animals in the wild, are provided for entry to the EPA WildNet database.

The inclusion of accurate, up-to-date records of sightings into this database provides an extremely important avenue for species and habitat conservation.

Bringing activities in the south coast area into line with other areas, Leigh and Karen are also ensuring that animals that require veterinary care are being micro-chipped and ear-tagged where appropriate. This has already yielded some very interesting information about koalas' use of the local area and will be of increasing value as more animals are released and able to be identified at subsequent sightings.

Additionally, Karen and Leigh have begun to document the local processes that capture these elements, together with more directly welfare related aspects of koala rescue and rehabilitation.

The range of issues includes consideration of actions in relation to healthy animals in situations perceived as unsafe, communication and support networks and development of working relationships with local veterinary specialists.

By documenting these processes, other interested

groups or individuals may adopt some of these measures and also broaden their role in koala conservation.

Leigh and Karen hope to present the information compiled through this process at a koala rescue and rehabilitation forum early this year.

The work of Karen and Leigh with QPWS demonstrates an excellent opportunity for the efforts of rangers and wildlife carers to complement and mutually enhance each others roles in ensuring conservation of species such as the koala.

Koalas for keeps — have your say

The EPA has released a draft koala conservation plan for comment.

Submissions are open until 30 March 2005.

For details visit the EPA website at www.epa.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 3247 5975.

Description: The koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus* is an arboreal marsupial weighing between 4-9kg in Queensland. Females have a rear opening pouch with two teats. Males have a prominent chest gland, used for scent-marking trunks and branches. Males are bigger than females.

Biology and ecology: Koalas feed mainly on the foliage of Eucalyptus spp. Some species of the genera *Lophostemon*, *Angophora* and *Melaleuca* are also frequently eaten. Individual koalas live in home ranges from about 2ha in high quality habitat up to about 30ha in poor habitat.

Habitat: Koala habitat requires the presence of favoured feed trees. Soil fertility and water availability may also be important in some situations.

The highest density populations tend to occur at lower altitudes in undulating country on relatively deep, in some cases more fertile, soils. Forested ranges, such as those in many protected areas and State forests, tend to support low density populations. In far inland areas, the highest numbers are found along watercourses and in low ranges.

Conservation status: Vulnerable in the South East Queensland Bioregion. Common in the rest of Queensland.

Distribution: In Queensland, the largest populations are in the south-east. They are found as far north as Chillago/Herberton and as far west as Jundah.

Rosie's wrap

by Rosie Booth

Although the majority of wildlife that come into care are either orphaned or traumatically injured, a significant number are affected by disease.

Some diseases carried by wildlife are a risk to humans (e.g. lyssavirus and salmonellosis).

Some diseases of wildlife are a threat to commercial livestock enterprises (e.g. avian influenza).

There are also diseases of wildlife that are a threat to wild species if animals are released (e.g. psittacine beak and feather disease or PBFDF).

It is this last group that I would like to discuss in this newsletter, particularly the sometimes contentious issue of rainbow and scaly breasted lorikeets with PBFDF (runners).

Lorikeets with clinical disease are frequently



COMPARE... A healthy lorikeet (left) perches beside a runner

rescued and rehabilitated by wildlife carers in the eastern states.

Many lorikeets make a clinical recovery from PBFDF and are released, but recovered lorikeets remain latently infected, with virus persisting in their livers.

Release of recovered lorikeets carrying PBFDF occurs in significant numbers (estimates number in the thousands).

Release of recovered birds potentially increases the dose of virus in the wild as these birds would die without intervention and therefore cease to circulate the virus.

This may be a problem for wild lorikeet populations.

Mandatory testing of rehabilitated parrots for beak and feather disease virus prior to release may be useful, but there is an issue of cost.

If testing was recommended, a management strategy would need to be defined for birds found to be positive (e.g. euthanasia).

I have been through three phases in my professional life with respect to this issue.

In my idealistic youth I wanted to rehabilitate runners because they were often particularly sweet natured.

Then in my pragmatic phase I thought they should all be euthanased because of the threat they posed by spreading more virus around, when in the natural world without our interference, they would have died, and this process would allow for some natural selection for resistant birds.

Now I am less certain that euthanasia is the best thing.

I would really like to see some long-term research on this disease in lorikeet species to clarify what happens to recovered lorikeets over their lifetime. How long do they remain carriers?

Do they eventually develop life-long immunity?

Do they then protect their offspring with passive immunity during their most susceptible period, or do they produce more susceptible offspring?

I hope this induces some thought on this issue, and some appreciation of the fact that recovery from signs of disease does not mean that an animal is free of disease.

Wildlife rehabilitators obviously need to behave in an ecologically responsible way and not just focus on individual animals.

We also all need to remain vigilant for new information as our ability to investigate diseases improves with technological advances.

Latest news from QWRC

As you are aware, we have been working for some time towards the formation of the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (QWRC) to better co-ordinate day to day wildlife care issues throughout the state.

As of November 2004 this group is now incorporated and ready for business.

2005 conference

Members of the committee will be helping Queensland carers organise the National Wildlife Carers Conference to be held in Brisbane in September 2005.

This will be the third conference specifically held for wildlife carers.

The end of the conference will be marked by a wildlife care fund-raising rock concert at Riverstage.

Leading Australian bands are already volunteering to perform.

The intention is to set up a number of resource centres around Queensland so that carers can borrow anything from cages to brooders.

Bat airlift

The QWRC committee is helping the Tolga Bat Hospital in managing an infestation of paralysis tick (full story page one) by developing appropriate

quarantine protocols for this situation and guidelines for any future events.

Grants

The committee is currently applying for grants to help establish a permanent base.

Contact details

Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
PO Box 1481

Capalaba DC Q 4157

Alternatively, please contact one of the representatives (contact details are on page 3).



the new logo!

Be on the lookout!

Carers are asked to be on the lookout for mass mortalities of native birds as these may be caused by avian influenza.

Avian influenza can transfer from to mammals and, in rare cases, humans.

There is currently a serious outbreak in Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The signs in birds are highly variable but include decreased activity and food consumption, coughing, sneezing, ruffled feathers, diarrhoea and tremors.

If you find a large number of dead native birds, contact your local QPWS.