



WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 come into effect on 1 January 2019.

Key points

- Wildlife rehabilitators provide a valuable service to the community and the Department in its efforts to conserve and protect wildlife.
- From 1 January 2019, new licensing arrangements exist for the possessing of native animals for the purpose of rehabilitation.
- People who possess native fauna for the purpose of rehabilitation for more than 72 hours require a *Fauna possessing (other purposes) licence*.
- Injured or abandoned native fauna must, as soon as possible (within 72 hours of taking possession of the animal), be returned to the wild at the place where it was originally taken if it is capable of fending for itself; or given to a DBCA wildlife officer, a veterinary surgeon or a person who is authorised under a licence to rehabilitate fauna (i.e. holder of a *Fauna possessing (other purposes) licence*).
- Online applications for licences will be available from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits from early 2019 or by contacting DBCA on wildlifelicensing@dbca.wa.gov.au.
- Significant penalties apply to possessing native fauna without a licence unless otherwise authorised.
- For species listed as threatened fauna; specially protected fauna; or listed in Schedule 6 of the regulations; within 24 hours of taking possession of these fauna, a person must provide written notice to DBCA. This can be done by completing the *Injured or Abandoned Fauna Notification* form at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits and emailing it to wildlife.protection@dbca.wa.gov.au.
- If you find an injured or abandoned animal and you require advice, contact the *Wildcare Helpline* on 9474 9055.
- The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 can be accessed via www.legislation.wa.gov.au.

Background Information

All native plants and animals are protected in Western Australia under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. DBCA in Western Australia is responsible for implementing this legislation as it applies to the management of wildlife.

Under this legislation, a person can apply to temporarily possess fauna that is injured or abandoned until it recovers or can fend for itself to ensure successful release back into the wild.

Wildlife rehabilitators provide a valuable service to the community and the Department in its efforts to conserve and protect wildlife.

DBCA coordinates the *Wildcare Helpline* which provides a service to members of the public who find injured or abandoned native fauna and are seeking advice on how to find care for the animal. If you find an injured or abandoned animal and you require advice, contact the *Wildcare Helpline* on 9474 9055.

Licensing Arrangements for Wildlife Rehabilitators

From 1 January 2019, new licensing arrangements exist for the possessing of native animals for the purpose of rehabilitation. This is principally covered in Regulations 35, 43, 124, and 126.


Injured or abandoned native fauna may be taken in to provide immediate care or rehabilitation, but must, as soon as possible (within 72 hours of finding the animal), be:

- returned to the wild at the place where it was originally taken (or a place agreed by a delegate of the CEO of DBCA) if the animal is capable of fending for itself; or
- given to a DBCA wildlife officer or another person specified by the wildlife officer; or
- given to a veterinary surgeon; or
- given to a person who is authorised under a licence to rehabilitate fauna (i.e. holder of a *Fauna possessing (other purposes) licence*).

People who possess native fauna for more than 72 hours for the purpose of rehabilitation, require a *Fauna possessing (other purposes) licence*.

There are two types of fauna possessing (other purposes) licences: Standard and Advanced. A **Standard** licence is required when possessing the species of fauna for rehabilitation that meet all of the following criteria:

- not threatened fauna or specially protected fauna;
- not likely to be the subject of illegal trade and is not likely to be illegally taken from the wild;
- resilient to handling and to being kept in captivity;
- does not have special feeding or housing requirements;
- not dangerous to human health or wellbeing; and
- does not represent a biosecurity risk.



An **Advanced** licence is required when possessing fauna species for rehabilitation that meet any of the following criteria:

- threatened fauna or specially protected fauna;
- has special keeping requirements or keeping requirements are not adequately known;
- poses risk to human health or wellbeing, or biosecurity; or
- has high economic value, may be the subject of illegal trade and is likely to be at risk of being taken from the wild.

A list of all species that require standard and advanced licences and information on applying for a licence will be available in guidelines for wildlife rehabilitation which will be available online.

If a native animal is trapped or otherwise in immediate danger but is unharmed, you may capture it and release it in the immediate vicinity without needing a licence or other form of approval.

Online applications for licences will be available from DBCA's website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits or by contacting DBCA Wildlife Licensing on wildlifelicensing@dbca.wa.gov.au.

Significant penalties apply for possessing native fauna without a licence unless otherwise authorised.

Notifiable Species

There are some species where special arrangements are needed. For species listed as threatened fauna or specially protected fauna or listed in Schedule 6 of the regulations, within 24 hours of taking possession of these fauna, a person must provide written notice to the CEO of DBCA.

This can be done by completing the *Injured or Abandoned Fauna Notification* form at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits and emailing it to wildlife.protection@dbca.wa.gov.au.

A list of threatened fauna, specially protected fauna and fauna listed in Schedule 6 of the regulations is available on DBCA's website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities/threatened-animals.

Code of Practice for Wildlife Rehabilitation

There are well-established networks of skilled and experienced wildlife rehabilitators around Western Australia which are supported by DBCA.

DBCA is developing a code of practice that will outline the principles and standards for wildlife rehabilitation in Western Australia. The code of practice will provide information on the care and welfare of injured or abandoned native animals and set out standards for procedures, hygiene and housing of wildlife under rehabilitation in Western Australia.

The code of practice is being designed to help increase the number of rehabilitated wildlife that is successfully returned to the wild. All rehabilitators will be required to abide by the code of practice which will be available on DBCA's website.

Licence Fees

The following table sets out the application and licence fees applicable to licences to rehabilitate native fauna.

Licence type	New application and licence fee*	Renewal application and licence fee*
Fauna possessing (other purposes) licence	\$250	\$110

*Inspection fees may also apply where DBCA needs to assess facilities in which rehabilitated animals are being kept.

To find out more about the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/biodiversity-conservation-act

For further information about licensing visit:

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/licences-and-permits

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your local office of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. See the department's website for the latest information www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions