



Wildlife Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines - Management of rehabilitated wildlife that cannot be released into the wild

Objective

To ensure the best outcome for native fauna and wild populations through the management of individual fauna that has been taken into care for rehabilitation but is unable to be successfully released back into the wild.

Scope and Context

This guideline pertains only to fauna as defined in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. There are additional relevant guidelines in the *Code of Practice for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Western Australia* regarding animals not native to Australia, and/or species that are native to Australia but are outside their natural range or identified as pests.

This document should be read in conjunction with the *Code of Practice for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Western Australia* and *Wildlife Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines – Making decisions on the fate of rehabilitated fauna*.

This document provides a decision-making framework for the management of fauna under rehabilitation in Western Australia that which is unsuitable for release to the wild but might be suitable to be possessed under an alternative licence by an appropriate licensee.

Assessment process

If fauna are unable to be released to the wild, and immediate and long-term welfare cannot be achieved by remaining in captivity, transfer to a different licence should not be pursued and the animal must be euthanased. Refer to the *Wildlife Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines – Making decisions on the fate of rehabilitated fauna* for a decision-making framework.

If it is considered that the fauna's welfare needs can be achieved by a life in captivity, and the rehabilitator considers there may be a conservation benefit in transferring the fauna to an alternative licence, the licensee may submit a request to have the fauna assessed for its suitability to be possessed under an alternative licence. A submission for the assessment must be lodged with DBCA Wildlife Licensing using the form in Appendix 1.



The submission assessment will consider the animal's short- and long-term welfare prospects and the capacity for it to make an active contribution to biodiversity conservation through training, education or other means. DBCA staff will consult with subject matter experts as required to make a decision.

Acquisition process

If the fauna is deemed suitable for transfer to an appropriate licence, DBCA will offer the fauna to facilities / licence holders in priority order as outlined in Figure 1.

To indicate interest in acquiring the fauna, facilities / licence holders will be invited to submit a written expression of interest. Applicants should identify and attach any relevant supporting information to assist with the assessment process. This may include guidelines, standards and codes of practice approved either nationally or by other Australian States or Territories that they propose to operate in accordance with. Submissions should also include information on conservation and/or educational plans.

Where there is more than one suitable submission from facilities/licence holders of equal priority, the information provided will be used to establish the most suitable placement of the fauna. In addition to welfare considerations, the following criteria may also be used.

- Contribution to biodiversity conservation, education and including relevant plans;
- Fauna already held by the institution/centre; and
- Suitability of enclosures and facility.

If DBCA considers that an expression of interest has not provided sufficient information on which to make an assessment, further information may be sought, or the nomination may be deemed unsuccessful.

If DBCA deems that none of the expressions of interest are successful, or no expressions of interest are received, the rehabilitator will be contacted and must arrange for the fauna to be euthanased.

Note: all acquisition and transfer costs, including transport are to be covered by the acquiring licence holder. Cost of euthanasia is the responsibility of the licence holder.

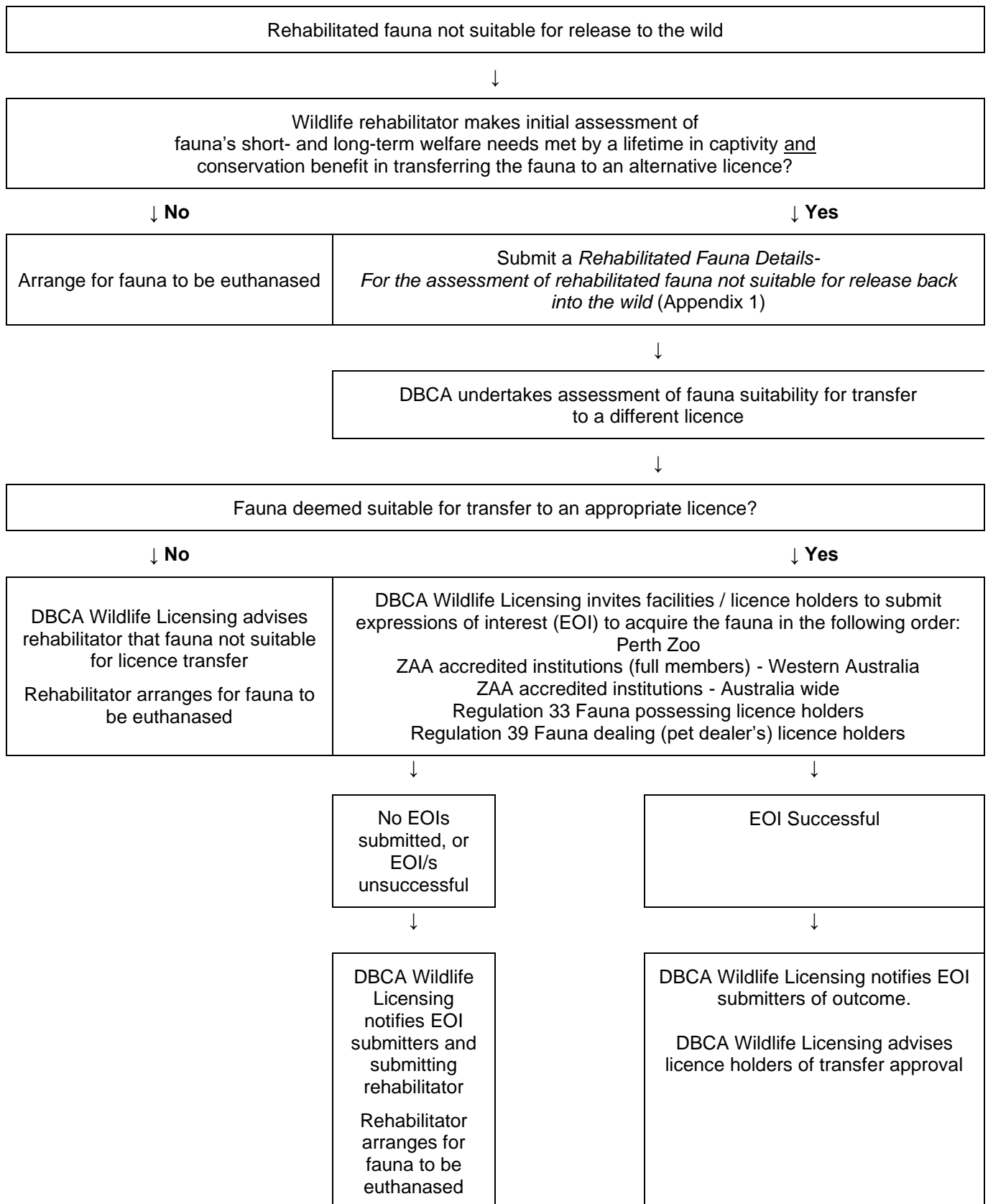


Figure 1: Assessment and disposal process for transition of rehabilitated wildlife to another appropriate licence.



Appendix 1

Assessment of rehabilitated fauna suitability for transfer to another licence

For further information and submission of forms, contact wildlifelicencing@dbca.wa.gov.au, or 9219 9840. Information provided on this form will be used by DBCA to undertake assessment of fauna suitability for transfer to a different licence. Items marked with an “*” must be provided.

1. Contact Information*			
<input type="checkbox"/> I consent to these contact details being provided to the successful licensee in the event of the fauna being deemed suitable for transfer to another licence			
Licence holder			
Contact person			
Phone contact number			
Email			
Fauna possessing (other purposes) licence - rehabilitation	Licence No.		Expiry date
2. Species Information			
Species*			
Sex (if known)			
Age estimate (if known)			
Date taken into care*			
Address/location where fauna was found*			
Reason for rehabilitation (include details of injuries, diseases, mobility, abnormal behaviour etc.)*			
Holding address*			
Reason for fauna not being suitable for release back into the wild (provide detail)*			
Veterinary report attached*	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	
Other relevant information attached	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	

OFFICE USE ONLY:

PRINCIPAL ZOOLOGIST (sign and date) _____

REGIONAL WILDLIFE OFFICER/WILDLIFE PROTECTION BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE (sign and date) _____