

1. Charles de Cheland Submission

Dear npws,

Standards of care and training

1] I would like to see vet nurses trained specifically for wildlife. As a trained certificate 4 vet nurse at TAFE NSW, wildlife was not part of our formal education. In my five years as a WIRES member I feel that the lack of knowledge has not allowed me to provide the best care for wildlife. Yes I strongly agree that vet nurses must be wildlife trained to improve standards of care by having the skills and resources to better treat wildlife.

2] Yes , I strongly agree that Standard induction and specialised species training for volunteers must be part of the wildlife rehabilitation strategy. All members must complete species specific training, to improve the level of wildlife care . Retraining in species specific courses must be continuous for instance every 3 years.The minimum standards of care must be met by all members involved in wildlife rehabilitation. All species courses must be a minimum of two days and must include different methods of how to accurately identify species and contain a theory section on Australian flora.

3] I strongly agree that Update triage and treatment protocols will lead to the outcomes of standards are adhered to.

4] I very strongly agree that assessment methods must be in place to achieve competency, this assessment methods must include theory and practical components.

5] I very strongly agree that establishment of shared learning resources will lead to better training standards and improve the level of wildlife care. Leading institutions for instance Taronga Zoo and the koala hospital Port Macquarie must be involved in the development of shared training resources to ensure the shared training resources are at a high level and contain the current treatment methods.

6] I very very strongly agree that wildlife rehabilitators to stay in touch with developments in wildlife ecology, veterinary medicine and treatment practices, and interact within other professional networks. I would like to see these workshops involve access to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital and the University of Sydney school of veterinary science.

7] Wildlife care training for vets and vet nurses, enhanced technical resources for the handling, triage and treatment of wildlife. Providing standard resources very very strongly agree this must be implemented into the strategy. This will lead to better outcomes for wildlife by allowing wildlife volunteers to continuously access will lead to better handling, triage and treatment of wildlife.

8] collaborate with the peak body for veterinary professionals to ensure free-living wildlife is managed in accordance with best practice in the industry and adequate records are kept prior to their transfer to a wildlife rehabilitation organisation. This is excellent and fully support the implementation of best practice and that detailed records are kept and will lead to better wildlife rehabilitation.

9] Post monitor release is an excellent part of the strategy, however I would recommend that koalas and other species such as endangered birds and reptiles are included in post monitor release. I strongly agree that opportunities with research institutions and wildlife rehabilitation groups to undertake postrelease monitoring of other species must be available.

I would like to add that all trainers must have appropriate qualifications for instance train the trainer (WIRES), certificate 3 in captive animals or certificate 4 trainer and assessor. Trainers are continuously retrained and assessed for their level of knowledge and their delivery of training. I feel that trainers are greatly inadequate to deliver answers to questions that relate to many aspects of care and are unable to deliver an inadequate detailed explanation of the training when it comes to important aspects of care.

I would also like to see the level of training material greatly improve for instance the level of detail has to be far more thorough in particular on methods to accurately id animals. All training materials must be peer reviewed and continuously updated for instance WIRES wombat manual has not been updated in the the last few years , whilst the possum and glider manual has been recently updated 2018.