

S00085 – Jonathon Howard

I have read the proposed changes to wildlife licencing and am extremely disappointed that there have been no additional species of mammals added to the permitted species list.

Easy to keep species such as quolls and possums should be allowed as their care in captivity is not considered specialist. Their diets are readily obtained commercially or made up of readily available fruit and vegetables.

The education value alone of keeping native species as pets is beneficial. For example in the US where sugar gliders are kept as pets, keepers are able to raise a day old joey without issue. Yet in Australia, wildlife groups do not attempt to raise unfurred joeys due to mortality and difficulties experienced. The more experience we have as keepers raising these animals allows potential opportunities (for example able to take joeys from Tasmanian devils to allow more litters to be born per season) to help with native mammal conservation.

Other states already allow keeping of native mammals so risk of poaching is reduced. There is also a pool of animals available and knowledge available to the NSW keeper minimising teething problems.

I encourage you include more native mammals on the allowable species with the upcoming licence changes.