



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESCUE

One of the frequently performed roles of a Wildlife Carer is performing rescues of injured or orphaned wildlife. Many of us know that all too familiar feeling of seeing the hotline number show up on our phone and wondering what animal emergency might be awaiting us. Injured wildlife calls occur at any time of the night or day and the important thing to remember is that it is usually an emergency. An animal needs our help and time is of the essence. For new carers the first few rescues can spark quite a lot of mixed emotion. Will I know enough? What if I don't know what to do? For this reason we recommend that new carers ask their mentor if they can tag along with them for the first few rescues. That way you will get to see where the animal hospital is located, the way the mentor deals with the member of public, how the animal is captured and transported appropriately. If you are a new or experienced carer on a rescue and are faced with a situation that you are unsure about in any way then please feel free to phone myself, Lorna on 0429810322 (Save the numbers in your phone now, so you have them for when you need it. You can also text videos of the animal if you are unsure about anything.) Not all animals need to be rescued and if in doubt call!

Always remember that 'With experience comes knowledge!' Every situation is different, and some are very challenging.

SAFETY

The number one priority during any rescue is always your safety and that of the people around you. We often attend rescues beside roads, so above all else, be careful. Always make sure someone is aware where you are going and always give them a courtesy call to let them know when you have left the site.

RECEIVING A CALL

Remember many hands make light work. It is best for everyone when we can share the workload of rescues so it is not just coming down to a few people to do all the call outs. When you see the hotline is ringing please answer it. The animal that is injured will be very grateful to you!

TRANSFERRING THE ANIMAL

* It's important to transport all animals appropriately. Timely and proper transfers after a rescue can sometimes be the difference between life and death for an animal. Remember, they are wild animals! They are frightened and stressed and we need to do everything we can to minimise the distress they are already in.



* Keep them Warm (In most cases animals that have been rescued will require heating to keep them warm. Shock causes the animals body temperature to drop, therefore we need to keep them warm)

* Keep them Secure (In a pouch or rescue basket that is appropriate for the animal. Always cover the basket with a towel or sheet to avoid the animal being able to see out. Looking out and seeing people only causes more stress.)

* Keep them Quiet (Avoid loud music in the car or loud phone calls, avoid having any animals in the vicinity and avoid kids or other people from looking at them.)

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- It is our policy to ensure we always take animals that we rescue up to the Australia Zoo Animal Hospital for assessment. They are properly checked over by professionals to ensure they do not have any internal injuries which are not visible to us.
- Call the Animal Hospital to let them know you are coming on 54362340.
- Emergency Triage appointments do not need appointments, however it is always courtesy to let them know and allow them to get prepared for your arrival.
- Note the exact location the animal is being rescued from, so it may be released back into the same area.
- Always notify the hotline when making trips up to the Animal hospital.
- Remember to write down the Accession number of the animal so you can check the outcome or take a picture of the admission form.
- Always assess if the animal is in a viable state. If it is in extreme suffering remember that we have trauma carers in our group that are permitted to euthanise and can end their suffering if needed.
- Assess the animal from afar so you can tell the animal hospital what you saw.
- Animals see us as predators, they do not think that we are trying to help them. Stroking them and patting their head only causes them more distress.
- Get a towel or blanket to cover animals as quick as possible. If it is a kangaroo beside the road, try to cover it and move away till further assistance arrives.
- Remove all threats from around the animal, dogs, cats, kids and spectators.
- Bat rescues are only performed by special carers who are immunised and trained.

THE RESCUE KIT (EVERY CAR SHOULD HAVE ONE)

- Towel or Blanket (to cover injured animals, to help with the capture and to cover the transport cages)
- Torch (preferably a Head Lamp so you still have both hands free)
- Heat Source (Wheat Pack, Hot water bottle, Instant heat packs, Plug in car heat pads, to use during the transport)
- Disposable Gloves
- Scissors, Safety pins, Clamp for Removal of Joeys from pouches if attached (Must call for advice if you haven't performed this)
- Cardboard Box for transporting Birds
- Plastic Rescue Box for transporting Possums
- Various sizes of pouches
- Pink Spray Paint (To mark the body of animals we have checked for Joeys with an X which alerts other carers that the animal has already been checked)
- Thick Protective Gloves
- High Visibility Safety Vest (to stand out when doing roadside rescues)

