

Caring for Wildlife

The Wildlife Regulations provide for the protection and management of wildlife in Tasmania. These Wildlife Regulations are now due for review and remaking, before 30 November 2020:

- ▶ [Wildlife \(General\) Regulations 2010](#)
- ▶ [Wildlife \(Deer Farming\) Regulations 2010](#)
- ▶ [Wildlife \(Exhibited Animals\) Regulations 2010](#)

PURPOSE OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

The purpose of this Infosheet is to help frame the discussion/comments with targeted stakeholders during the first stage of consultation.

This Infosheet describes the Wildlife Regulations that relate to the care of injured or orphaned animals.

This Infosheet includes matters that have been identified by various stakeholders, external to the Department, since the Wildlife Regulations were last reviewed in 2009. They do not represent the views of the Department.

The Department is, in this stage of the consultation, seeking the views of identified stakeholders about the efficiency, effectiveness and adequacy of the regulations.

INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

The Department works in conjunction with rescue groups, wildlife parks and zoos, veterinarians and members of the community who assist in the rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife through the Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program, managed by the Natural and Cultural Heritage Division.

The reasons why wildlife become injured or orphaned primarily relate to road trauma, attack from a cat or dog, and disease. The most common groups of animals that present as injured or orphaned are wallabies, birds and brushtail possums.

The aim of wildlife rehabilitation is to provide temporary care to enable wildlife to be released back into the wild. Wildlife undergoing rehabilitation have specialised needs that are different from domestic pets. Nutrition, housing and husbandry must be appropriate to the species and adequately prepare them for life in the wild. Caring for wildlife is generally performed by skilled wildlife rehabilitators.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED PREVIOUSLY BY STAKEHOLDERS

The following points represent some issues that have been identified by various stakeholders since the regulations were last reviewed. They do not represent the Department's position on any particular matter:

- I. Feedback received to date suggests that there is some confusion around feeding wildlife and appropriate interactions with wildlife, and the potential unwanted side effects and harm caused to wildlife by being fed or interacted with in a potentially harmful way. Comments have highlighted that the regulations do not provide clarity around this matter.

2019 WILDLIFE REGULATIONS REVIEW

2. Comments have been raised around the lack of clarity around the definition of injured and orphaned wildlife, and whether clarifying aspects of this would help to improve their management.
3. Feedback has been received in relation to the Wildlife Regulations not containing a specific wildlife rehabilitation permit or licence, and some unique issues associated with injured and orphaned wildlife that may require further consideration in relation to permitting, such as: rescues usually occur in emergency situations, it is unrealistic for the person rescuing the animal to obtain a permit to take and possess the injured wildlife within the timeframe required.
4. The Wildlife Regulations currently allow members of the public to possess wallabies and possums without the need for a permit, which sometimes leads to people possessing these species as family pets. Some comments received to date have questioned this inconsistency in the regulations.

REVIEW PROCESS – WHEN CAN YOU HAVE YOUR SAY?

This Infosheet has been developed to assist the first phase of consultation with key stakeholders. The Department has engaged with around 90 groups and individuals. The Department is also reviewing existing regulatory practices for regulatory consistency to identify potential improvements.

Draft Regulations will be released in mid-2020 for public comment.

If you have an interest in receiving information on the review process, please contact the Natural Heritage Policy Section on (03) 6165 4422 to register your interest.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment

For further information about the review email NaturalHeritage.Policy@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au or visit www.dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/wildlife-regulations-review