



Decision about euthanasia involving a species or group of species

Identification No PRO_WIRES_1.29

Approved by 5 August 2018

Release date 5 August 2018

Version: V1.0

Introduction

From time to time, a situation may arise where a decision must be made as to whether adequate care can be given to a particular species or group of species. An example would be an influx of brushtail possum joeys when all carers in a group are already overloaded with animals, surrounding groups are unable to assist, and to accept them into care would compromise the well-being of both the animals and the carers.

A Species Coordinator or BMC might wish to make the reluctant decision to euthanase incoming animals as adequate care cannot be provided. The same situation may occur regarding appropriate release sites for another species.

This policy clarifies that such a decision cannot / must not be made at a branch level and that the responsibility for such decisions rests with Board of WIRES Inc. This policy also requires that the Board direct resources to assist the affected animals.

Legislative, licence requirements or COP conditions

- The Code of Practise requires that animals are assessed as individual with regards to their specific circumstances.

Procedure

1.29.1	WIRES is licensed by the Office of Environment and Heritage to care for a number of native animal species in NSW.
1.29.2	When any specific native animal comes into care it needs to be assessed as an individual with individual circumstances and in accordance with the licence, OEH and WIRES' codes of practice, policies and training etc.
1.29.3	No coordinator, Branch Management Committee (BMC) or BMC executive is authorised to make a blanket decision that all animals of a specific species or group of species are to be euthanised either prior to, or on coming into care.
1.29.4	WIRES Board is responsible for WIRES adherence to the conditions of our licence and therefore is the only body that is able to decide if WIRES will not care for specific species or groups of species.
1.29.5	If a coordinator or branch foresees a period where there will be inadequate resources (carers, release sites and so on) for a species or species group, they must contact the Board via the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
1.29.6	If a member has a concern that a co-ordinator, a Branch Management Committee (BMC) or BMC executive has made a decision that a species or group of species is to be euthanised either prior to, or on coming into care, they should use the WIRES Grievance policy and



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	follow the escalation protocol outlined in that document.
1.29.7	The Board will delegate their authority to the CEO who will work with the branch, WIRES, OEH and other community resources to assist the branch to manage resources so that the needs of animals coming into care are able to be met.
1.29.8	The CEO will apprise the Board of circumstances that fall under this policy on a regular basis.

Core References

The following core references are relevant to this Policy:

- POL_WIRES_1.9 Euthanasia

Glossary

- WIRES – Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service
- WSC – WIRES State Council
- BMC – Branch Management Committee
- CEO – Chief Executive Officer

Definitions

- N/A

Access

This procedure approved and has been released to all members via CarerHQ.

Version control:

The following is a record of the history of changes to this Policy:

Version	Date Issued	Description of change
V1.0	5 December 2016	Draft Version for comment
V1.0	5 August 2018	Accepted and issued

Where changes to the Business Rules are:

- significant - the version number will be incremented by 1.0, or
- minor - the version number will be increased by 0.1

NOTE: Please ensure when completing the policy template that it does not include any procedure related items.

You are required to complete a separate document for the procedures using the Procedure template