



**CODE OF PRACTICE**

**FOR THE TEMPORARY DISPLAY OF**

**FAUNA**

**MARCH 2014**

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# FAUNA RESCUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE TEMPORARY DISPLAY OF FAUNA

### Introduction

The need to make the community aware of our native fauna and the promotion of Fauna Rescue often entails taking part in displays, shows and talks to groups, and will sometimes involve showing native animals that are in care. The welfare of the animals, birds and reptiles is of paramount importance, and they must not remain on display if they show any signs of stress or a desire to hide. The display of individual fauna must in no way jeopardise the chances of its successful release and survival following rehabilitation.

The following code of practice has been formulated to prevent undue distress or inappropriate handling of fauna on display. Members not following this Code of Practice will be answerable to the Committee of Fauna Rescue of SA Inc.

### Definition of Terms:

The terms fauna and animals relates to any native animal, bird, amphibian or reptile.  
Fauna Rescue refers to Fauna Rescue of South Australia Inc.

### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 When on display fauna must be housed in cages or enclosures large enough to allow them free movement, for birds to spread their wings, animals to feed, sleep, sit, stand and lie with limbs outstretched.
- 1.2 Fauna must not be displayed at any open air venue when the temperature is forecast to be over 30 degrees. Fauna can be displayed when the temperature is forecast to be over 30 degrees if the venue is air conditioned, the fauna is transported in an air conditioned vehicle and the transfer between vehicle and venue can be carried out quickly.
- 1.4 Animals must not be left unattended in a vehicle.
- 1.5 Any fauna that is at the stage of being rehabilitated for release must not be displayed if it might compromise the rehabilitation process for best outcome for release. If they have to accompany their carer, they must be kept out of sight in suitable containment, and if feeding etc is needed it should be carried out in a quiet place where the public cannot touch or stress it.
- 1.6 Unreleasable animals may be displayed but must not be held by members of the public. A sign should state that all adult animals on display are unreleasable and in permanent care.
- 1.7 All fauna must be fed regularly at the appropriate time they are usually fed when not on display
- 1.8 Suitable heating must be supplied for fauna that are usually kept in heated conditions.
- 1.9 Animals on display must not be held by any person other than the Fauna Rescue handler and must be under Fauna Rescue control at all times. An exception to this may be an event where DEWNR has given permission to relax this rule. Reptiles may be held by Fauna Rescue personnel for a limited period and must be given regular rest periods.
- 1.10 Containers of clean, drinkable water must be available at all times in cages and tanks.
- 1.11 Frequent regular checks must be made of all fauna housing and any necessary cleaning carried out and water replaced if spilt.
- 1.12 Fauna that are natural predator/prey species must not be housed next to each other.
- 1.13 Warning signs must be displayed if there is any danger to the public from the fauna.
- 1.14 Fauna that could cause injury are to be housed out of reach of the public where possible.
- 1.15 Fauna will not be involved in displays where entertainment of the public takes priority over the care and wellbeing of the fauna.

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### **2. VENUES**

- 2.1 All open air venues must have shelter from the sun and protection from the rain.
- 2.2 Animals must not be displayed at an open air display if the weather is above 30 degrees, cold, wet or windy. This decision will be made by the authorised Fauna Rescue person on site. The display may remain, at the discretion of the Fauna Rescue person in charge, but all animals must be removed.
- 2.3 Covered venues are to be air conditioned in the hot weather and heated in cold weather.
- 2.4 If heating is required for display animals, in the event of an electricity supply not being available, suitable alternatives must be arranged.
- 2.5 Noise levels must be monitored by the handler/carer, and if the display area is found to be too noisy and/or stressful, or insufficient distance can be maintained between the fauna and the public, the display animals must be removed. The display may proceed but without showing fauna.
- 2.6 The type of allowable event where native fauna are displayed is to be decided by the Committee of Fauna Rescue and must be within the bounds of their Code of Ethics.

### **3. MARSUPIALS**

- 3.1 Marsupials are easily stressed and must only be held by an experienced handler, preferably the carer who usually cares for them. They must remain under the control of an experienced member at all times. This rule may be relaxed when special permission has been sought from DEWNR (as per 1.9)
- 3.2 Joeys, both possum, kangaroo and where applicable, koalas, must be kept in their pouches to avoid them becoming stressed.
- 3.3 Once a kangaroo joey is fully out of pouch it must not attend displays or talks. Koalas must have appropriate sized tree stumps/forks
- 3.4 Unreleasable possums that are used to being handled must be kept in a pouch to avoid stressing if there is a sudden noise.

### **KOALAS**

- 3.5 Joeys under 1.5kg may be taken to talks/displays when still in need of regular feeding but must not be displayed.
- 3.6 Koalas can be taken to talks/displays for the purpose of raising awareness of the species and its vulnerability and environmental needs, but only the carer may hold the koala unless special permission has been sought from DEWNR (as per 1.9). Careful consideration must be given that public display will not compromise the eventual outcome for koalas that are undergoing rehabilitation for release and post release survival.
- 3.7 An appropriate distance must be maintained between the koalas and the public. Open displays must have a fence to keep public at a suitable distance to maintain the comfort levels of displayed koalas. A desired distance of a minimum of 1.5 metres and at least one other person in attendance to ensure this is maintained. Koalas must be removed from the display if insufficient distance can be maintained between the koala and public, or if the koala becomes stressed for any reason.
- 3.8 All care must be taken to keep the koala/s stress free, with noise levels and temperature monitored. The on site Fauna Rescue carer/person responsible for koala care to make the decision, and if they deem the noise level or temperature to be stressful, the koala/s must be removed to a more suitable area. Appropriate conditions should be provided that will allow natural behaviour as much as possible by using a soft toy for a young one to cling to, providing a tree stump or by using a large koala cage with a branch and leaves. An 'on show' time of 30 minutes maximum. The koala should be removed from display immediately at the first sign of stress regardless of time on display and must not be returned to the display.

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- 3.9 A temporary permit/ permission (verbal or written) to remove a koala from its usual address must be arranged with DEWNR prior to the event.. The Letter of No Objection/note re verbal permission must be prominently displayed. Carers should have a copy of their personal permit with them .

### **4. BIRDS**

- 4.1 Birds that are going to be released back to the wild must not be displayed. Baby birds still needing regular feeding may be taken to an event but must be isolated from the public.
- 4.2 Unreleasable birds are to be displayed in a suitable size cage with three sides covered. Water and suitable foliage must be in the cage.
- 4.3 A sign must be put on the cage that this size is for display purposes only and is not the size in which the bird is usually housed.
- 4.4 The cage is to be fully covered for regular rest periods, and if the birds show signs of stress the cage must be removed from display.

### **5. REPTILES**

- 5.1 Reptiles are to be displayed in vivariums/tanks suited to their size.
- 5.2 They must have water and appropriate cage furniture e.g. bearded dragons need branches for climbing.
- 5.3 All reptiles must have an area in the vivarium where they can retire out of sight when they want to hide.
- 5.4 Reptiles that are being handled must have regular rest periods in a suitable container where they can hide from public view if they wish.
- 5.5 If reptiles are staying at the venue overnight, they are to be kept in lockable ventilated tanks.

### **6. AMPHIBIANS**

- 6.1 Amphibians should be housed according to their needs.
- 6.2 Turtles must have access to water deep enough for them to be able to be fully immersed and be able to climb out to walk about on mulch type flooring.
- 6.3 Turtles must have an area where they can hide from view.
- 6.4 Frogs need to have water they can immerse in and an area that they can climb on out of the water.
- 6.5 Frogs must not be handled for showing to the public.
- 6.6 Frogs must always be handled with wet hands.
- 6.7 If amphibians are staying at the venue overnight, they are to be kept in lockable tanks with adequate ventilation.

### **7. HYGIENE**

- 7.1 Where it is not possible to have water available for hand cleaning, suitable hand cleaning alternatives, such as hand cleaning gel or Wet Ones packs must be available.
- 7.2 The stand must be kept tidy and clean, with any droppings etc. removed immediately.
- 7.3 Uneaten food is to be removed before it goes stale.

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### **8. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

- 8.1 When the date of the event is known well in advance a Letter of No Objection must be applied for from the Permit Unit of Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) giving the date, venue, times animals will be away from their registered address, the permit number of each animal and the name and address of the permit holder.
- 8.2 If there is not enough time before the event to apply in writing, the Permit Unit must be phoned to ask for verbal permission to take animals from their registered address, giving the information as in 8.1.
- 8.3 The Letter of No Objection/Note of verbal permission must be prominently displayed at the venue.

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Reviewed and authorised at a Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Item 44

To be reviewed yearly