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## **POLICIES – MISCELLANEOUS**

### **(COVERING KANGAROOS, KEEPING NATIVE ANIMALS AS PETS, TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPTS AND WORLD WIDE ANIMAL ISSUES)**

#### **KANGAROOS**

The cost of desexing non-releasable male kangaroos is to be shared between Fauna Rescue and the member caring for the kangaroo. If the member is in a situation of financial hardship the committee can consider whether Fauna Rescue pays a greater proportion of the cost. DEWNR do not allow the release of kangaroos back to the wild, therefore all male kangaroos must be desexed, usually at about 7-8kg.

Fauna Rescue does not approve of selling kangaroo joeys which are bred in captivity and taken from mother while still pouch dependent then hand reared.

#### **KEEPING NATIVE ANIMALS AS PETS**

Fauna Rescue disagrees with the concept of keeping wildlife as pets. If a bird, animal or reptile is healthy and not imprinted it does not deserve to be kept in captivity for the rest of its life. Whilst domestic animals have had close human contact for thousands of years, the role of native wildlife is to be free. Our organisation has the opinion that the majority of wildlife do not make suitable pets.

Many types of native fauna, especially marsupials, are nocturnal, and even the animals that have been desexed cannot be trusted as they frequently revert back to their natural instincts and may attack their owners.

When the novelty of keeping a native animal, bird or reptile as a pet wears off, some people will abandon these animals in unsuitable areas where they have little chance of survival and will create problems with the eco-system of that area. Specialist knowledge and training is needed for the care of wildlife, the general public do not usually have the expertise.

In the case of endangered species they should only be bred by specialists with the correct facilities and knowledge.

We accept that some wildlife that is not 100% healthy or fit cannot be released. Therefore as long as they are kept in spacious accommodation, are well cared for, natural foods provided and are not stressed by life in captivity, it may be an acceptable solution to keep these animals in care.

#### **TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPTS**

Fauna Rescue will issue Tax Deductible Receipts to members, subject to reasonable justification, on receiving a donation form listing the animals/birds/reptiles in their care with the cost of foods used to feed these animals. Animal records must be kept up to date and sent to the Records Officer regularly so that there is evidence to support the claim.

#### **WORLD WIDE ANIMAL ISSUES**

Fauna Rescue of South Australia Inc. will only get involved in an issue if it is in relation to Australian wildlife. The Committee to make the decision on the extent of the involvement when Australian wildlife is involved. Fauna Rescue will advise members of non Australian wildlife issues when requested and it will be the decision of members whether to support the issue as an individual.