

# Wildlife rehabilitation training programs

Peter Myroniuk & Judith Tomlin  
Wildlife Victoria

# Training - why?

- Caring for wildlife requires skill & knowledge
- Complex trauma/disease - complex solutions
- Improve quality of care and carer

REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE  
FOR THE WELFARE OF  
**WILDLIFE**  
DURING REHABILITATION

(REVISION NUMBER 1)



 Natural Resources and Environment  
AGRICULTURE • RESOURCES • CONSERVATION • LAND MANAGEMENT

## Principle Number 8

*“A wildlife rehabilitator should strive to achieve high standards of animal care through knowledge and an understanding of the field. Continuing efforts must be made to keep informed of current rehabilitation information, methods and regulations. Membership of animal welfare and wildlife rehabilitation organisations is encouraged.”*

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## Skills

1. Clear understanding of the objectives of rehab
2. Accurate ID of species
3. First aid for injured wildlife
4. Husbandry
5. Avoidance of disease transmission
6. Basic understanding of wildlife ecology & population dynamics
7. Ability to access specialised information
8. Handling techniques

# Victorian System

- Wildlife Shelter permits (Mentor)
- Foster carers (Trainee)
- Potential for bad practices to be passed on
- Non standard approach to education

# Standard training

- Seminar/lecture based
- Expert presenters and lecturers
- Up to date information, products & techniques
- Better quality of care and carer

# WV Training

- Seminars & field trips
  - Bats
  - Birds
  - Possums
  - Kangaroos
  - Koalas
  - Wombats
  - Monotremes
  - Reptiles

# WV Training

- Workshops
  - Wildlife first-aid
  - Wildlife rescue and equipment
  - Oiled wildlife



# WV Training

- Victoria University Course (Basic)
  - Intro to rehab - what is it all about?
  - Law - wildlife act and regulations; the shelter system
  - Ecology
  - Biology of animal groups (anatomy, digestion, taxonomy etc)
  - Animal health

# WV Training

- Husbandry
- Rehabilitation and release  
(procedures/techniques)
- Hand rearing
- First-aid
- Rescue
- Field biology (Zoology professionals)

# Wildlife first aid



## Training in coordinated disaster rescue



## Training in oiled wildlife procedures



# Equipment and rescue training workshops



# National accredited course

- WV advocates a standard and formalised approach to training wildlife rehabilitators across Australia