

National Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue Conference 2010 Paper

Legal Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release

- Jed Goodfellow BA / LLB (Hons), GDLP

Abstract:

Disputes frequently arise between wildlife carers as to what constitutes appropriate care for a particular species of animal. Such disputes often escalate to the point where law enforcement bodies such as National Parks and the RSPCA are requested to get involved. In the absence of definitive legal standards and guidelines it can be difficult for law enforcement bodies to deal with these disputes, particularly in cases where even the experts cannot agree. In these situations it is helpful to have definitive guidelines for law enforcement bodies to have regard to with a view to resolving the dispute in the best interests of the animals concerned.

This presentation aims to briefly:

- identify the current Codes of Practice, Standards, Guidelines or other instruments which have legal effect for the care of wildlife already operating in Australia;
- consider the legal status of such instruments; and
- to provide some brief comments and observations on the processes for developing such standards and issues with their enforcement.

Bio:

Jed Goodfellow is the Legal Officer for RSPCA SA where he is responsible for managing prosecutions under the Animal Welfare Act 1985 (SA) and contributing to the development of animal protection law and policy. Prior to this Jed worked for commercial law firm Clayton Utz and served as an animal cruelty inspector for RSPCA Qld.

Jed is an admitted legal practitioner of the Supreme Court of South Australia and the Supreme Court of Queensland. Jed graduated with Bachelors degrees in Arts and Laws with Honours from Griffith University in 2008 and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Queensland University of Technology in 2009.