

Issues:

- If you are going to take a wombat into care for 1 to 1.5 years, are you prepared to give it the correct stages of release so that it can be put back into the bush SUCCESSFULLY? If not, then why bother, why not just put the animal down instead of putting it through the rehab process, only for it to die a horrible death because it does not have the correct skills or bulk to survive?
- Underweight release. Weight v Maturity. Drought means wombats coming in underweight, with a maturity level greater than the weight the wombat should be. Release is generally done on the maturity weight of the wombat, however a wombat tend to stick with 'mum' for 18 months – 2 years. Weight of the mainland common wombat should be around XXkg – XX+kg.
- Written material is a guide only, no book on how to raise every child, therefore think in the terms that each animal into care is an individual, similar in behaviour but different by nature. No wombat is exactly the same. Some will 'turn' earlier than others, some will turn later than others. Again, depending on their care and rehabilitation process, have they been through the correct stages or have they been incorrectly raised? This later causes MAJOR problems for both wombat and carer trying to rectify the problems, examples are Daphne (cruelty) and Darcy (never allowed outside). Many resources out there, use them to learn.
- You can never stop learning. Watch your wombats in care, notice their behaviour.
- Death of a wombat in care. Carers are generally of a compassionate nature. Animals that are in long term care (such as wombats) have a higher likelihood of an emotional attachment from the carer. When an animal dies in care, there is some emotional trauma experienced by the carer, yet there appears to be no (if little) counselling or strategies to assist carers who experience grief.
- Arthritis
 - Develops as the animal gets older, not obvious when animal is pouched
- Mange
 - No adult wombats in care
 - Consider internal damage
 - Cannot save them all, also helping by putting out of misery
 - Treatments to discuss (Revolution, Tricil wash once a week, etc)
 - Quarantine area/enclosure
 - What to look for, questions to determine severity
 - Not enough is known about mange, mention scenarios with qualified vets sending half dead manged wombats to us for release!!!
- Rehabilitation

- Enclosures, dirt, burrow/cover
- Use garage scenario from Jackie as a bad example
- Clean every day
- Allow natural behaviour of animal to develop, ie biting, bucking bum, running, etc – don't get cross with them, if you understand your subject, you will understand that this is their natural behaviour
- Release
 - Dehumanise process
 - If the wombat begins to dislike you, respect that and pull away
 - Allow this behaviour to develop, natural to wombat
 - Use example of wombat left in box ABOVE ground – end result was death
 - Release weights are important at this stage, wombat both mentally and physically ready to be given second chance in the bush
 - Ozark example of Daisy may (ask Cath and Garry if this is okay) – believe she was attacked by an older wombat (pictures)
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