

## Update on Animal Husbandry Software and Wildlife Tracking Devices

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**ABSTRACT:** Last year at the Darwin conference Peter gave a presentation on a web based animal records system designed specifically for Wildlife Carers. This system has been made available free of charge to wildlife carers worldwide. Since last years conference a large number of enhancements have been made to the system, including geocoding of carers, a Google Maps based "Find a Carer" facility, support for Fauna and Flora surveys of release sites, comprehensive mapping of Australian Flying Fox colonies based on the FFICN supplied list, a flying fox "Creche Manager", and support for all North American animal species. This presentation will give an update on the new features of the system which is currently installed on several websites in Australia and is being evaluated by the SPCA in Houston Texas. The long awaited stand-alone version of the system is now available and copies will be distributed to delegates at the conference.

This presentation will also give an update on the status of the real-time tracking devices that were the subject of a second presentation in Darwin last year. Significant advances have been made in the design which have reduced the size and cost and increased the battery life. Field trials of the new devices are about to commence and it is hoped to be able to display prototypes of the trackers at the conference.

**No paper submitted.**

### **BIOGRAPHY:**

Peter Richards has been actively involved in wildlife care and rehabilitation since 1975. He has written several articles including "Paralysis Tick Life Cycle and Identification", "Coccidiosis Life Cycle and Diagnosis in Macropods", "Improving Post Release Survival Prospects of Eastern Grey Kangaroos".

For several years Peter has been caring for orphaned and injured wildlife, specialising in macropods. He has considerable experience in this area and has for some time been concerned about a number of issues surrounding the care and release of orphaned and injured wildlife by individual carers and care groups. High on this list of concerns are the standard of record keeping, the preparation of animals prior to release, the assessment of release sites and the monitoring of released animals.

In 2003 Peter and his wife purchased 1200 acres of bushland between Gatton and Toowomba and established the Long Grass Nature Refuge. This property is dedicated to research aimed at improving survival rates of rehabilitated wildlife. A particular interest is in real-time monitoring of released animals using GPS and VHF transmitters in order to quantify their post release survival under a variety of pre-release and release scenarios.

In order to address the issue of record keeping by care organisations, Peter has developed a web-based animal record system specifically designed for Australian Wildlife carers. This system is available free of charge to wildlife carers and other interested parties.

In 2005 Peter completed a Graduate Certificate of Animal Studies at UQ Gatton and is currently undertaking a post graduate research project studying the post-release survival of rehabilitated kangaroos.



