

Minimum Standards for Rehabilitators



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Introduction

How were the standards formed?

These standards were introduced in 2007, reviewed in 2008 and confirmed and voted on in 2009 when the WReNNZ committee was formed. The standards were reviewed and updated in 2021.

What are these minimum standards for?

The aim of wildlife rehabilitation is to give sick, injured or abandoned wildlife the best chance to survive, heal and be returned in a healthy state to the wild.

The objective of the WReNNZ minimum standards is to outline the minimum requirements of good practice for wildlife rehabilitation. It is important to meet these standards to ensure animal welfare, and to give rehabilitators' confidence that their efforts provide good quality of care.

Who should use them?

These standards were developed by and for WReNNZ members, but anyone that is rehabilitating wildlife in New Zealand should utilise these standards as a guideline to good practice.

Document details

Approved for use

WReNNZ Committee meeting, 20.03.10

Amendments

Amendment date	Amendment details	DOCDM version	Amended by
July 2020 March 2021	Changes to order of sections, additional wording or changes to existing wording for introduction,		Janelle Ward Rosalie Goldsworthy Mikaylie Wilson

Terminology and definitions

Auscultate: Auscultation is the technical term for listening to the internal sounds of the body, usually using a stethoscope

Disease Screening: Perform tests on an animal such as blood tests, faecal parasite counts or swabs to rule out infectious diseases of importance such as salmonellosis or coccidiosis. There may be species-specific or regional diseases of concern to rule out prior to release. The requirement for disease screening should be determined locally, with the input from the Department of Conservation and avian veterinarians where possible.

Fomite: A fomite is any inanimate object or substance capable of carrying infectious organisms (such as germs or parasites) and hence transferring them from one individual to another.

Preservation reflex: Birds go to great lengths to hide clinical signs of illness. In the wild, sick birds attract the attention of predators and, in flocking species, a sick bird will be shunned by flock mates (Hume 2000). This masking of signs of illness is known as the 'preservation reflex'. Birds generally do not look sick until they are in an advanced state of illness and near collapse (Cannon 1991).

NSAIDs: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

Stress bar: A Stress bar is a name for the lines sometimes found running across the shaft of a bird's feather. Stress bars occur during feather development and can be an indicator of a problem with the bird's environment, routine, or diet.

VOI: Veterinary Operating Instruction. A legal written document by a Veterinarian written for a person to allow them to administer a drug or drugs to an animal under specific conditions.

Zoonosis: An infectious disease in animals that can be transmitted to people. The natural reservoir for the infectious agent is an animal. Examples of zoonoses include rabies (a viral disease that can be transmitted to humans through an infected animal's bite) and psittacosis (a chlamydial infection resembling influenza that is spread to humans by the droppings of infected birds).

Minimum standards - summary

Minimum Standard	Detail
1. Skills required to be a rehabilitator	All staff/volunteers must undertake training to be able to provide appropriate care for wildlife in rehabilitation. Drugs are administered to wildlife only under the direction of a veterinarian.
2. Recognise signs of illness	Ensure all staff/volunteers are aware and able to recognise of the signs of illness. Use objective criteria (e.g. body weight) to assist in making decisions.
3. Human health and safety	Be aware of diseases which may affect humans and animals. Undertake precautions to prevent infection, including a good hygiene routine. Ensure staff/volunteers understand correct handling procedures for each patient. Provide protective equipment where required.
4. Human interest	Animal welfare is paramount. Minimise the risk of imprinting by having only minimum contact. Ensure the welfare of the patient is not compromised by any media/human attention/ domestic animals. Media including photos, video or social media must promote good rehabilitation and welfare practices.
5. Housing design	Housing is appropriate to the species and the injury/illness and the stage of rehabilitation.
6. Disease transmission	Isolate infectious animals. Always keep domestic animals away from the patients. Undertake disease screening if required.
7. Hygiene	Identify and undertake hygiene requirements as appropriate (e.g. washing of hands, disinfection of equipment & facilities).
8. Admission of animal	Record details of history if available. Record details of initial examination. Notify DOC according to your permit conditions.
9. Stabilisation	Provide appropriate stabilisation (quiet, heat, humidity, pain relief and fluids as required).

	Seek veterinary consultation if a major illness/injury is suspected.
10. Assessment and consultation with a veterinarian	<p>Any animal showing signs of sickness, injury or deterioration in condition while in care must be thoroughly assessed and treated appropriately.</p> <p>A good relationship with a veterinarian will enable you to provide the best possible care. Vets can issue VOIs (veterinary operating instructions) which allow you to administer drugs.</p>
11. Intensive care and nursing support	<p>Follow veterinary instructions and treatment protocols.</p> <p>Record daily progress, medications or treatments given and food eaten.</p>
12. Euthanasia	<p>How: Euthanasia should only be carried out by suitably trained people and preferably after consultation with a vet.</p> <p>When: For animals which are unlikely to be successfully rehabilitated and have no predetermined place in a captive management programme.</p>
13. Rehabilitation for release	<p>Provide predator safe appropriate housing which allows exercising to build condition.</p> <p>Provide a natural diet, or access to some natural food and appropriate artificial foods.</p> <p>Provide natural environmental enrichment to encourage natural behaviours.</p> <p>Record patient progress at appropriate intervals.</p>
14. Release criteria	<p>Only those animals which meet the criteria to function normally in the wild are to be released. Refer to release criteria for the species where this exists.</p> <p>If the animal cannot achieve the criteria, consult with your DOC contact or species coordinator to discuss options of euthanasia or inclusion in a captive management programme, if appropriate.</p>
15. Release	<p>Assess the patient against the release criteria and determine if release is appropriate.</p> <p>When a wild animal is returned to its natural habitat, care must be taken to ensure it is not released in circumstances in which it is likely to suffer unnecessarily.</p> <p>Undertake the release according to your permit conditions.</p>
16. Record keeping and reporting	<p>Keep your own individual patient records.</p> <p>Submit annual reports to DOC according to your permit conditions.</p>

1. Skills required to be a rehabilitator

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Skills required to be a rehabilitator	<p>All staff/volunteers must undertake training to be able to provide appropriate care for wildlife in rehabilitation.</p> <p>Drugs are administered to wildlife only under the direction of a veterinarian.</p>	<p>https://www.wrennz.org.nz/</p> <p>https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/training/online-courses/wildlife-health-online-course/</p> <p>https://www.learnbirdcare.com/</p>

Recommended Best Practice

Legal Requirements

- Be authorised by the Department of Conservation to hold native animals in captivity for the purpose of rehabilitation
- Note that introduced/ non-native species do not require a permit
- Some non-native species are considered pests by the regional council or nationally (e.g. MPI unwanted organisms). Examples include red-vented bulbul and rainbow lorikeets. It may be illegal to release pest species to the wild. To check your local requirements, you can search the Regional Pest Management Plan or visit a council website and search “pests”

Animal identification

- Be able to identify species and life stage correctly so it is clear what to provide for husbandry and nutrition and so there is a strategy in place for early decisions on the outcome.

Health and illness identification

- Be sufficiently experienced to recognise the signs of good health and ill health or injury. Seek advice if inexperienced or unsure.

First aid

- Be efficient and effective in the provision of first aid.

Nutrition

- Have, or be able to access knowledge of correct nutrition for the species in care.

Housing

- Have, or be able to access knowledge of correct housing for the species in care.

Veterinary Relationships

Each rehabilitator should establish a formal relationship with a local veterinarian to help ensure the best possible care of sick or injured animals

- Veterinarians can assist with advice, consultations, surgery, treatments, euthanasia, or to develop written protocols
- Veterinarians can provide legal and correct supply of medications, including Veterinary Operating Instructions (VOIs) which allow you to administer certain drugs onsite, with conditions

Use of medication

- Understand the correct use of pain relief drugs and antibiotics, and the contraindications for use
- Administer drugs only under the direction of a veterinarian (this may include a VOI and/ or training in correct use)
- No animal is to receive medication without approval from a vet. This especially includes antibiotics and Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs

Ability to assess release criteria

- Be able to assess birds' flight capability before release; and know that:
- All aquatic birds, including waders, waterfowl and seabirds need to be assessed for waterproofing before release
- There are varying levels of waterproofing requirements e.g.: penguins 100% other seabirds 90% and less
- Non-aquatic birds will also need to be weatherproofed
- Seabirds require active salt glands for release

2. Recognise the signs of illness

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Recognise signs of illness	Ensure all staff/volunteers are aware and able to recognise of the signs of illness. Use objective criteria (e.g. body weight) to assist in making decisions.	

Recognise signs of illness

Birds effectively mask illness, and this is called the preservation reflex. However, once working with birds for a period, a rehabber will recognise signs of illness (by observation and examination). This is not an exhaustive list but can include:

- Increased irritability
- Aggression
- Anorexia
- Lethargy
- Regurgitation and or vomiting

- Vocalisation on movement, excessive vocalisation, no vocalisation
- Eyes closed, weeping eyes, partial or full blindness
- Discharge from mouth and beak
- Plumage condition
- Lameness
- Dehydration
- Abnormal faeces and urates
- Change in posture/ unusual posture
- Lying down for extended periods
- Changes in respiratory character:
 - Open mouth breathing
 - Increased depth and rate of respiration
 - Laboured breathing
 - Audible wheezing, coughing, sneezing
- There may be a noticeable tail bob
- Absolute stillness (a bird in pain may be very still)
- Convulsions, head twitching, unable to properly stand (e.g. due to head injury or poisoning)
- Coma
- Inability to rise or stand (ataxia) or keep stable in water
- Visual signs of hypothermia (cold) and hyperthermia (hot)

Objective criteria

Objective criteria include body weight, size, blood results, etc

Utilise these objective measures compared to normal parameters to guide decisions such as whether to seek vet help or change your treatment or nutrition.

3. Human health and safety

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Human health and Safety	<p>Be aware of diseases which may affect humans and animals.</p> <p>Undertake precautions to prevent infection, including a good hygiene routine.</p> <p>Ensure staff/volunteers understand correct handling procedures for each patient.</p> <p>Provide protective equipment where required.</p>	<p>https://www.who.int/gpsc/country_work/en/</p>

Recommended Best Practice

- The rehabber is to provide safe and effective handling for the bird, themselves and volunteers in their care
- Correct methods of restraint should be employed to protect the bird and the person
- Have an awareness of zoonosis and strategies in place to minimise the likelihood of this occurring. Prevention of zoonosis is part of your responsibility as a rehabilitator
- Prevention of disease transmission can be achieved by hygiene and cleaning regimes, including correct handling and disposal of wastes
- Handwashing between patients and before eating or drinking is an important hygiene practice
- Animal food preparation areas should be separate from human food prep areas. i.e. animal and human food and utensils are prepared and washed in separate areas
- Alternatively, the food preparation occurs in the same area but at different times and after cleaning, to avoid cross contamination
- Equipment and drugs should be handled, stored and disposed of appropriately
- Consult your doctor regarding preventative medications/vaccinations appropriate to your situation
- Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, gumboots, aprons or overalls (as required) for all staff and volunteers

4. Human interest

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Human Interest	<p>Animal welfare is paramount.</p> <p>Minimise the risk of imprinting by having only minimum contact.</p> <p>Ensure the welfare of the patient is not compromised by any media/human attention/ domestic animals.</p> <p>Media including photos, video or social media must promote good rehabilitation and welfare practices.</p>	<p>Chronic captivity stress article link here</p>

Any wildlife in captive care will experience stress due to capture, handling, captivity and ongoing care. Exposure to human visitors, domestic animals or media such as flash photography and video can induce further stress in captive wildlife. Animal welfare is kept paramount by reducing exposure to these additional stressors.

Recommended Best Practice

- Limit public and media exposure to minimise unnecessary stressors
- Keep visitors and foot traffic to a minimum
- The finder may wish to visit or keep informed on the progress of the patient. Updating the finder is important, but it is critical to keep visitors to a minimum as these are sick and wild patients which succumb to stress easily

- Reduction of stress is achieved by providing a quiet, safe enclosure and no domestic animals around the wildlife
- Media including photos, video or social media is minimised, and content of good rehabilitation and welfare practices is promoted

5. Housing design

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Housing design	Housing is appropriate to the species and the injury/illness and the stage of rehabilitation.	https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/wildlife-health/wildlife-rehabilitation-guides/

Indoor stabilisation housing will usually be small cages which are easy to clean. Rehabilitation housing will usually be larger aviaries which allow normal behaviour and movement, e.g. swimming and flying (to build muscle condition for release).

Recommended Best Practice

Housing should:

- Be away from cats and dogs and all domestic avian species
- Be away from people other than those required to feed, treat and care for the animals
- Be in a quiet setting
- Prevent further injury by offering correct caging, substrate and privacy
- Provide good access & placement of food: e.g. Can the bird reach into the bowl? Will they knock it over? Is the bowl under the perch where it will be contaminated with faeces? Will their injury limit their ability to feed?

Protect feathers

- Minimise tail damage with suitable perches, tail wraps for raptors
- Minimal and correct handling
- Good hygiene of cages, substrate, perches
- Supply enough room for birds to fly and suitable places to perch, when appropriate in their treatment
- Be safe from predators such as stoats, rats and mice

Indoors

- Provide warm air temperature in hospital cages/any critical care and inside cages
- Provide covers for indoor stabilisation cages at appropriate times for certain species

Outdoors

- Provide adequate shelter from rain, wind and cold
- Provide adequate perches, substrate and places to hide or rest
- Be predator proof

6. Disease transmission

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Disease Transmission	Isolate infectious animals. Always keep domestic animals away from the patients. Undertake disease screening if required.	

Recommended Best Practice

- Isolate animals with infectious diseases or that have clinical signs suspicious of infectious disease. This should be a separate area (preferably a separate room) away from other patients, with separate equipment, feeding bowls and utensils
- One of the best and most simple ways to reduce disease transmission is by good hygiene, especially washing or sanitising your hands between patients
- Disease can be transferred by fomites (equipment, clothes etc). Dedicate bowls and cleaning equipment to each area. Supply a written cleaning regime so that it can be followed by volunteers
- To minimise the spread of disease from feral birds to natives the rehabber must have separate areas for domestic species, feral species and natives
- Native and non-native species must not be caged together
- Birds that are to be released to the wild should be free of disease

Disease screening before release is recommended to prevent the transmission of diseases that would negatively impact on the wild population. Seek advice on the appropriate or necessary disease screening for your centre and the species you commonly rehabilitate.

7. Hygiene

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Hygiene	Identify and undertake hygiene requirements as appropriate (e.g. washing of hands, disinfection of equipment & facilities).	

Recommended Best Practice

- Equipment is cleaned, disinfected and rinsed regularly and between patients
- Disinfectant soap and alcohol-based sanitiser are provided, and staff/volunteers undertake regular hand washing
- Rehab housing is cleaned, disinfected and rinsed between patients
- Hospital and ICU cage(s) are cleaned using correct cleaning agents
- Understand the correct contact times and cleaning agents that can be used around avian species.

8. Admission of animal

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Admission of animal	Record details of history if available. Record details of initial examination. Notify DOC according to your permit conditions.	DOC online training - Physical Exam

Recommended Best Practice

Record animal details

- Record the species, sex and estimated age,
- Record details of history

If possible, obtain the following details about the animal's history from the submitter:

- Where was the bird found?
- What was it doing?
- How was it captured?
- When was it captured?
- Any treatment, food, medication already offered by the submitter
- Contact details of submitter

Conduct initial assessment

Record details of your observations of the animal from a short distance:

- Posture normal (vs. abnormal, noting abnormalities e.g., head tilt, wing droop etc.)
- Assess the demeanour:
 - Bright, alert, reactive
 - Quiet, dull, unresponsive
 - Comatose
 - Can it stand/perch; are the feet and legs weight bearing? Any other presenting signs?

Physical exam

Note: This initial examination may not be able to be done immediately or completely if the bird is stressed.

- Take a weight
- Look for obvious signs of injury (bleeding, fishhooks, bites, cuts, fractures, limbs at unusual angles)
- Check body confirmation and symmetry
- Check all external openings (ears, eyes, nares, vent) for discharge, discolouration. Check eyes for reaction, pupil size and dilation, third eyelid position. Check inside the mouth for colour, odour, mucus, parasites
- Are the wings and feet functional? – test by observation; can the bird perch, fly and gain height, hold its food? Check and palpate (feel) the wings, legs and feet for wounds or broken bones and to check they are fully functional e.g. joints have a full range of normal movement
- Assess body score - check keel, is it normal for that time of year?
- Check for feather damage
 - Are the feathers sitting in a uniform manner and undamaged?
 - Are there any feathers missing or is the bird fluffed up?
 - Are there stress bars on the feathers indicating disease events?
- Check for external parasites
- Check nails for damage
- Heart and lungs auscultated (optional)
- Check faeces colour & consistency. Just remember when the bird has just travelled, they produce stress faeces that are not always a good indication of what's normal.
- Is there mucus or other discharges?

Notification

Notify DOC if required by your permit e.g. threatened species

9. Stabilisation

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Stabilisation	Provide appropriate stabilisation (quiet, heat, humidity, pain relief and fluids as required). Seek veterinary consultation if a major illness/injury is suspected.	https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/wildlife-health/wildlife-rehabilitation-guides/

Stabilisation of birds requires warmth, humidity and hydration, darkness and quiet.

Recommended Best Practice

Warmth and humidity

Sick birds are unable to maintain a normal body temperature

- Normal bird body temperature is 40-42°C (38 C for kiwi)
- Provide a room/cage temperature of 28-30°C (note seabirds & kiwi: provide 25°C)
- Un-feathered chicks require up to 36°C
- Provide humid heat or a source of humidity

Fluids/hydration

Note: most sick/injured animals will have some degree of dehydration on arrival and will benefit from fluids

- Oral (or Subcutaneous if trained in this)
- Provide humidity to reduce effects of dehydration

Low stress environment

- Keep animals in a dark place away from noise and activity.

Initial stabilising treatment

- Stabilise fractures / pain relief via bandaging
- Pain relief NSAID (oral) or opioid under direction from a veterinarian (via consultation, phone discussion or as per written VOI)
- Clean wounds with 0.9% saline only
- Provide supportive nutrition
- Notify vet within 24 hours, if injury or illness is significant

10. Assessment and consultation with a veterinarian

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Assessment and consultation with a veterinarian	<p>Any animal showing signs of sickness, injury or deterioration in condition while in care must be thoroughly assessed and treated appropriately.</p> <p>A good relationship with a veterinarian will enable you to provide the best possible care. Vets can issue VOIs (veterinary operating instructions) which allow you to administer drugs.</p>	

You must consult a veterinarian as soon as possible if there is serious illness or injury, including:

- Fractures & open wounds
- Emaciation
- Eye injury
- Respiratory distress
- Inability to rise or stand, wobbly (ataxia)

- Inability to keep stable in water
- Inability or abnormal reluctance to move
- Diarrhoea
- Persistent vomiting
- If the animal is comatose or has open wounds
- If you have any concerns about what is wrong with the animal

Legislative reasons for consulting a veterinarian

- Vet consultations ensure good welfare for the animal in care (as per the Animal Welfare Act) and can help relieve pressure on rehabbers
- Collaborative decisions should be made early within the process as to whether euthanasia or rehabilitation is the most appropriate option. Under most permit conditions, euthanasia can be elected on Animal Welfare grounds by a veterinarian

11. Intensive care and nursing support

Minimum Standard 12	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Intensive care and nursing support	<p>Follow veterinary instructions and treatment protocols.</p> <p>Record daily progress, medications or treatments given and food eaten.</p>	

Recommended Best Practice

Facilities and care

- Provide an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) set up appropriately for the species
- Provide correct ongoing nutrition
- Follow veterinary instructions for medications and treatments.
- Finish all courses of antibiotics or other medications as prescribed.
- Daily weight must be taken to assess progress whilst hospitalised (this can be done when handling the animal for treatment/feeding)
- Provide caging away from all domestic pets and people.

Observations

- Undertake daily observation of
 - food intake
 - urates colour
 - faeces amount, colour and consistency
 - behaviour / demeanour

- note down any abnormalities or comments
- Note daily medications given to track course of treatment

12. Euthanasia

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Euthanasia	<p>How: Euthanasia should only be carried out by suitably trained people and preferably after consultation with a vet.</p> <p>When: For animals which are unlikely to be successfully rehabilitated and have no predetermined place in a captive management programme.</p>	<p>Seek the document on avian euthanasia at https://www.nzva.org.nz/resource/general-welfare/</p> <p>(if it requires you to sign-in ask your vet for a copy of the document)</p>

Recommended Best Practice

Principles of euthanasia

- Euthanasia must be humane (quick and painless)
- Euthanasia should be undertaken promptly for welfare reasons, or as soon as it becomes apparent that the patient will not recover to a releasable state
- Euthanasia must be administered according to any conditions in your rehabilitation permit
- Patients which cannot be released must be euthanised EXCEPT where there is a place in an approved DOC or coordinated captive management or advocacy program
- Consult your DOC office to determine if the body of threatened species should be sent for a necropsy or other purpose e.g. Te Papa, iwi, etc.
- Euthanised animals must be treated with respect and disposed of according to your permit

Euthanasia (From the MPI Code of Welfare for Zoos)

- (a) When an animal is euthanised the euthanising agent must render the animal unconscious in a rapid and pain-free manner
- (b) When an animal is euthanised the operator or keeper must ensure that death occurs quickly
- (c) There must be provision of an effective method of euthanasia for each species held
- (d) Where an operator elects to euthanise an animal the handling, restraint and technique used must ensure the stress of the procedure for the animal is minimised
- (e) All necessary equipment must always be easily available

13. Rehabilitation for release

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Rehabilitation for release	<p>Provide predator safe appropriate housing which allows exercising to build condition.</p> <p>Provide a natural diet, or access to some natural food and appropriate artificial foods.</p> <p>Provide natural environmental enrichment to encourage natural behaviours.</p> <p>Record patient progress at appropriate intervals.</p>	

Recommended Best Practice

- Provide safe and appropriate outdoor housing e.g. aviaries and pens
- Assess and record condition and/or weight at regular intervals
- Provide species specific substrate
- Provide natural diet where you can - or have access to correct artificial diets
- Exercise and observe normal flight and range of movements
- Provide environmental enrichment using safe materials

14. Release criteria

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Release Criteria	<p>Only those animals which meet the criteria to function normally in the wild are to be released. Refer to release criteria for the species where this exists.</p> <p>If the animal cannot achieve the criteria, consult with your DOC contact or species coordinator to discuss options of euthanasia or inclusion in a captive management programme, if appropriate.</p>	For captive coordinators either contact DOC or Email: admin@zooaquarium.org.nz

Recommended Best Practice

Release Criteria

- Normal weight within acceptable range for time of year and breeding status
- Suitable release site available
- Weather and waterproof, as appropriate

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- Able to function normally in the wild
 - can it fly/swim?
 - can it feed naturally?
 - can it socialise with its own species (i.e., not imprinted)?
 - does it has a normal response to humans (i.e., avoidance)?
- and any species appropriate parameters which indicate it can function normally in the wild

Recommended screening for disease

- Normal faecal sample result (FEC, Coccidia)
- Crop wash result (as applicable)
- Normal blood values (as applicable)
- Salmonella, yersinia negative (as applicable)

Please expect there will be species specific or DOC-led requirements, seek advice if unsure.

15. Release

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Release	<p>Assess the patient against the release criteria and determine if release is appropriate.</p> <p>When a wild animal is returned to its natural habitat, care must be taken to ensure it is not released in circumstances in which it is likely to suffer unnecessarily.</p> <p>Undertake the release according to your permit conditions.</p>	

Recommended Best Practice

Notification

Notify the finder of the release (if they expressed a sincere interest or you agreed to this)

Notify DOC if this is a condition of your permit

Transfer

Use a species-specific transport carrier with good substrate and ventilation

Only have one bird per box (unless best practice states otherwise)

Release

NOTE: You will need to get clearance from DOC to release animal/s into a national park.

Release at correct time of day and weather conditions for that species

Preferably release to the location the animal was found if known, or to an alternative safe location if unknown or if original site is unsafe

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Updated Jan 2021

www.wrennz.org.nz

16. Record keeping and reporting

Minimum Standard	Detail	Helpful resources/links
Record Keeping and Reporting	Keep your own individual patient records. Submit annual reports to DOC according to your permit conditions.	https://www.wrmd.org/ DOC annual return template

Recommended Best Practice

Record keeping

As a rehabilitator, you are required to keep individual patient records. How you choose to record these is up to you, but it is suggested you collect the following information:

- History
- Physical examination
- Daily observations including weight records
- Rehabilitation progress observations
- Your agreement with your veterinarian will also contain requirements for recording treatments and reporting use of medications
- Outcome (released, died, euthanised, transferred, in care)

Reporting

Reporting is an important part of rehabilitation because:

- it helps us to build a picture of all the important rehabilitation work that's being done
- it allows us to provide the evidence we need for funding bids
- it helps us to drive improvements, e.g., to determine the most effective treatment regimes, make recommendations on which animals to treat and which ones not to treat etc.
- It allows us to obtain retrospective data from records for research purposes

Annual report template

Use the following template format to record the animals you have seen and held for rehabilitation. Short notes are preferable e.g. for "Treatment" you might note that the animal had "antibiotics and a bandage".

If you use an excel spreadsheet or online database to record this information, an export of the data in table/ excel format can be submitted to DOC.

Date Received	Species	Native? y/n?	Location found	Assessment e.g. type of injury	Vet referral y/n	Brief summary of Treatment	Outcome: released, died, euthanised, transferred & where, or still in care	Date
e.g. 12/01/20	kereru	y	Waitangi Park	injured wing	y	x-ray, bandage, pain meds, antibiotics	released	8/02/20

Date Received

- Record the date the animal arrived at your facility.

Species

- What species is the animal, common name or scientific name.

Location found

- Record where the animal was collected from.

Assessment

- What is wrong with the animal? E.g. Broken wing, starvation, cat attack, orphaned, head injury

Vet referral

- Did you seek veterinary attention for this animal? Yes or no

Brief Summary of Treatment

- What treatment did the animal receive? E.g. bandage, splint, antibiotics, pain relief, tube feeding, fluids, feeding etc

Outcome

- What happened to the bird? Was it released? Did it die or get euthanised? Did it go to a captive management programme?

Wildlife Admission Form

Date:..... Name:..... Phone #:

Address:.....

Email:..... Date bird was first seen:.....

Location bird was found:

Bird species..... No. Rescued

Did you do anything to help the bird(s):.....

.....

Reason for Rescue:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hit by car | <input type="checkbox"/> Hit window |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Found on road | <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attacked by _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to fly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fell from nest | <input type="checkbox"/> Cold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gunshot | <input type="checkbox"/> Wet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Found on ground | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orphaned/mother absent | |

Further notes:

Outcome:

Date: