

TASMANIAN NATURE CONSERVATION FUND

INFORMATION FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS



This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund Application form and Guidelines. It does not replace those documents – this information is an additional resource developed specifically for wildlife rehabilitators.

Thank you

Wildcare Tasmania very much appreciates the time, skill, and commitment of volunteer wildlife rehabilitators in helping wildlife return to life as nature intended. Thank you for what you do at all hours of the day and night. We know that getting established with the right equipment to house wildlife and to nurse them to their health, can be expensive. We also know that different species have different needs, and that equipment needs change.

Wildcare Tasmania raises funds for 'Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release' within our Tasmanian Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF). We thank people who donate to the wildlife rehabilitation and release cause, as you enable Wildcare to provide the opportunity, through our grants program, to support wildlife rehabilitators with equipment. Donations to the TNCF are tax-deductible. See <https://wildcaretas.org.au/donations/>

Grant applications to the TNCF are assessed by the Grants Assessment Committee, who are a group of skilled and passionate volunteers, with environmental qualifications and background. We thank the Grants Assessment Committee for their time in assessing the grants, as they ensure that donated money goes to worthy projects. See <https://wildcaretas.org.au/board-ceo-committee/>

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply for funding from the Tasmania Nature Conservation Fund (TNCF), volunteer wildlife rehabilitators must be a current member of Wildcare Tasmania.

To become a member visit <https://wildcaretas.org.au> and click 'Join'. Contact office@wildcaretas.org.au if you have any membership questions.

Wildlife rehabilitators must also be registered with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRET). Before your application is presented to the Committee for consideration, the Wildcare Office team may contact NRET to confirm that the required permits have been obtained.

What you will need to include in your application

Wildcare wants to support rehabilitators. We also want to ensure that donated money goes to be the best possible uses and that all relevant parties are onboard. For this reason, we ask for full descriptions of projects in applications and that all necessary approvals have been obtained, prior to lodging the application.

Our tip is to begin your application before or when the grants round opens and to seek out supporting documentation early. Feel free to contact our team at office@wildcaretas.org.au if you have any questions. We're here to help.

In your grant application, you will need to provide:

- quotations for equipment and materials detailed in the application. (eg. personal estimates as to how much something will cost, will not be considered), and
- evidence of endorsement from the manager or owner of the land on which the works will take place, if applicable. Eg. if you are renting and are wanting to install permanent structures on the property. A signed letter of support or an email will meet the endorsement requirements provided it contains sufficient information and comes from the email address of, and under the signature block of, the person with relevant authority.

Guidance as to what may or may not be approved

The Grants Assessment Committee (Committee) will consider:

- funding for materials and equipment that will have ongoing use and that will contribute to the conservation of Tasmania's wild places and wildlife either directly, or through fostering community interest and education,
- funding for construction or upgrade of permanent enclosures, provided that you have all the necessary endorsements and permits, including approvals from landowners. The Committee will take a number of factors into account in assessing applications for permanent structures, including the size of the enclosure, whether there are any commercial considerations, and what will happen to the structure if you move, or cease being a wildlife rehabilitator,
- funding for professional services in some circumstances. Each circumstance will be individually considered including assessing the cost of the service in supporting the ongoing care of wildlife and/or upskilling volunteers through training, and
- community engagement projects that support volunteers in wildlife care.

The Grants Assessment Committee will not consider:

- applications that don't clearly benefit Tasmania's natural environment and wildlife,
- funding for payment of personal labour costs, eg. paying yourself a salary to care for wildlife,
- applications to boost facilities of an enterprise being operated for commercial purposes, and
- funding for short-term or disposable items, such as feed.

Assessment of applications will involve consideration of all circumstances at the time, including the amount of funds available for release and the total of applications received. An application that meets the criteria for consideration, will not necessarily be approved.