

Animal Welfare Considerations



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Dr Manda Page
Principal Zoologist

Topics to be covered

- Obligations under legislation
 - Licensing
- Animal welfare risks and mitigation



Obligations under WCA 1950

- DPaW administer Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA) 1950
- All fauna is wholly protected throughout the State
 - Exceptions only if declared notice by Minister
- Definition of fauna:
 - any animal indigenous to Commonwealth
 - eggs, larvae, carcass, skin, fur, plumage and semen
- Taking of protected fauna is an offence, unless licenced
- Definition of 'to take' (fauna):
 - kill, capture, disturb, molest any fauna by any means
 - hunt or kill, regardless of result

Licences under WCA Regs 1970



Many licences but those of relevance include:

- ▣ Licence to take fauna for education or public purpose (**Reg 15**)
 - Used for diverse purposes
 - Includes fauna relocation (salvage)

- ▣ Licence to take fauna for scientific purposes (**Reg 17**)

*NOTE: only need one licence per activity,
most relevant*

Reg 17 processing

- All Reg 17 license application processed by Wildlife Licensing Section
- Are assessed by a Zoologist
- Generally assessed for:
 - ▣ Conservation impact on the species
 - ▣ Potential value to science/conservation
 - ▣ Welfare impact on the animal
 - ▣ Applicants competency
- Consider if AEC approval received but does not guarantee will not be rejected based on welfare concerns.



Obligations under Animal Welfare Act 2002

- Animal Welfare Act (AWA) 2002 also relevant
- Provides for the welfare, safety and health of animals, and to regulate their use for scientific purposes
- AWA is administered by DAFWA (*for further interpretation*)
- DAFWA issue a licence to use animals for scientific purposes under the Animal Welfare Act.
- Note the distinction between use and take
- Unlicensed use of animals for scientific purposes is prohibited under AWA
- A person must not use animals for scientific purposes unless:
 - ▣ they or their establishment holds a license authorising use, and
 - ▣ an AEC has given approval
- Definition of 'scientific purpose': acquiring, developing or demonstrating knowledge or techniques



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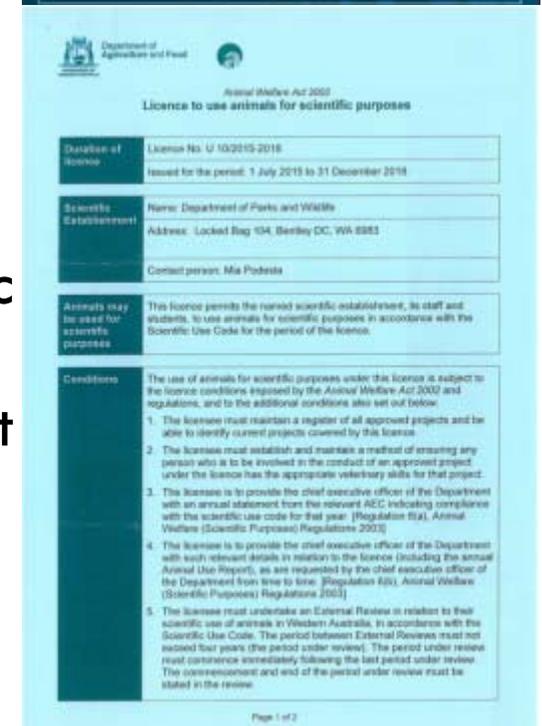


What is an AEC

- ❑ Animal Ethics Committee
- ❑ Operate according to the 'code of practice'
- ❑ Code dictates governing principles, roles and responsibilities, reviews and reporting
- ❑ Must have at least one person from each category:
 - ❖ **Category A: qualified veterinarian.**
 - ❖ **Category B: scientist working with animals.**
 - ❖ **Category C: animal welfare representative.**
 - ❖ **Category D: independent with no animal experience.**
- ❑ DPaW has a Licence to Use Animals for Scientific Purposes and has an AEC.
- ❑ All DPaW staff undertaking fauna research must have projects approved by the AEC



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Welfare Impacts to Consider



The Code promotes the three R's in all activities involving animals:

- ❑ Reduce the number of animals used in experiments
- ❑ Refine the experiment techniques (reduce risks)
- ❑ Replace the need for animals in experiments where possible

The welfare of animals must be supported and safeguarded by:

- ❑ Using appropriate methods, techniques, equipment (type and number)
- ❑ Monitor and minimise time animals spend in traps
- ❑ Avoid/minimise harm to target, non-targets species, dependent young
- ❑ Using a sufficient number of competent people
- ❑ Handle and restrain animals for minimum time
- ❑ Making provisions to care or treat injuries
- ❑ Minimise the transition of disease
- ❑ Methods of euthanasia are humane and species appropriate



Every handler has a personal responsibility for the welfare of animals

Standard Operating Procedures

- Developed a range of SOPs for frequently used techniques
- Available on website
- Reviewed /endorsed by DPaW AEC
- Outline accepted techniques and highlight welfare issues

- SOP 5.2 Remote operation of cameras
- SOP 7.2 Observing animals from secondary signs
- SOP 8.1 Vouchering vertebrate fauna specimens
- SOP 8.2 Use and disposal of sharps
- SOP 8.4 Tissue sample collection and storage for mammals
- SOP 9.1 Elliott traps for live capture of terrestrial vertebrates
- SOP 9.2 Cage traps for live capture of terrestrial vertebrates
- SOP 9.3 Dry pitfall trapping for vertebrates and invertebrates
- SOP 9.4 Nest boxes for monitoring arboreal mammals
- SOP 9.5 Soft cage traps for capture of macropods
- SOP 9.6 Hand capture of wildlife
- SOP 9.10 Mist net trapping for birds
- SOP 9.17 Funnel trapping for terrestrial fauna
- SOP10.1 Animal handling/restraint using soft containment
- SOP 10.2 Hand restraint of wildlife
- SOP 11.1 Transport and temporary holding of wildlife
- SOP 12.1 Permanent marking of vertebrates using microchips
- SOP 12.2 Permanent marking of mammals using ear notching
- SOP 12.3 Semi-permanent marking of mammals using ear tags
- SOP 12.5 Marking of marine turtles using flipper and PIT tags
- SOP 12.9 Temporary marking of mammals, reptiles and birds
- SOP 13.4 Ground-based radio-tracking
- SOP 14.1 Care of evicted pouch young
- SOP 14.2 First aid for animals
- SOP 15.1 Humane Killing of Animals Under Field Conditions in Wildlife Management
- SOP 15.5 Euthanasia of small stranded cetaceans using firearms
- SOP 16.2 Managing Disease Risk in Wildlife Management



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Identifying Risks and Mitigation

- *To determine level of risk, consider both the consequences and the likelihood of occurrence*
- *Can use the matrix below to determine the risk category*

Description of consequence	Consequence Level	Likelihood of occurrence		
		Likely	Possible	Unlikely
Fatality (or result in euthanasia), or serious injury, or majority of animals under stress	very high	very high	high	medium
Injury (requires off-site treat), or multiple animals under stress	high	high	medium	medium
Minor injury (requires on-site treatment), or some animal under stress	medium	medium	low	low
Very minor injury (no treatment required), or occasional animals under minimal stress	low	low	negligible	negligible

Final Messages

- All (native) fauna are protected on all land tenure
- All animals are subject to welfare considerations
- Take includes disturbance and non-living animal parts
- If in doubt ask: wildlifelicensing@dpaw.wa.gov.au
- Refer to DPaW SOPs as a guide
- DPaW license does not cover or replace licenses or permits required under other legislation

**THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?**



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