

Department of Planning and Environment

Macropod Care Assessment Tool

Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector
An application check against the Code of
Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned
Macropods



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Purpose

This Macropod Care Assessment Tool (the tool) has been designed for wildlife rehabilitation groups to monitor their level of compliance with the *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Macropods* (the code). Its primary purpose is to proactively help inform and guide improvements to these species standards of care and optimise their post-rehabilitation outcomes.

The tool is for use by species coordinators and experienced macropod rehabilitators such as mentors. It aims to provide an objective snapshot of a group member's application of all or specific parts of the code. When applied across multiple members, the tool can also strategically inform future training and guide grant applications for replacement enclosures or other assets which are not code compliant.

Everyone authorised to interact with macropods is required to act in accordance with the code. It has been developed to protect the welfare of rescued macropods and support the conservation of wild macropod populations. Compliance with the code is a condition of a Biodiversity Conservation Licence to conduct wildlife rehabilitation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The person applying the tool must be familiar with the content and application of the code.

Wildlife rehabilitation groups are encouraged to maintain a register of volunteers who have been assessed under this tool and to compare against previous inspections.

How to use this assessment tool

The tool is divided into 4 sections:

1. training
2. records management
3. facility inspection
4. field observation of animal rescue and transport.

An inspection may target one or more sections of the tool. Each section aligns with specific standards in the code. It is preferable to complete Sections 1, 2 and 3 together or Sections 1 and 4.

Content of each section

- A place to enter the assessor and group members names, signatures and date of inspection.
- Code standards to be assessed.
- An overall assessment question and prompts to help guide the assessment.
- Targeted questions which align with specific standards in the code.
- Each section provides places to select a response, score and tally the assessment results.
- Notes about any observations you make during the inspection and to make specific recommendations.

What to take to the assessment?

It is important to do some planning before you go on-site.

Things to think about

- Contact the group member and arrange a mutually convenient time.
- Consider if an observer should also attend with the assessor.
- Explain the purpose of the assessment to the person before coming and at the premises.
- Ask if there are macropods on-site and at what stage of rehabilitation.
- Identify which standards you intend to assess.
- Take a copy of the relevant code of practice.
- Be familiar with the data report template.
- Bring a mobile phone and ask if you can take photos.
- Take a tape measure.
- Bring a pencil, pen and clipboard or laptop.

Scoring each section and collating the results

Each targeted question requires the assessor to circle the appropriate answer in the adjacent column. Only one answer can be selected. The answers can then be collated, scored and converted to a percentage.

This worked example has 5 target questions.

Code of Practice standards: 3 Rescue; 4 Transport			
Assessment Question: Was the rescue of the macropod undertaken in accordance with the standard?			
Prompts: Observe the method and conduct of the macropod's actual rescue.			
Target questions	Select one response for each question		
1. Did the rescuer use the correct rescue equipment?	Yes	No	N/A
2. Did the rescuer limit the exposure to additional stressors such as onlookers, loud noises and other animals?	Yes	No	N/A
3. Did the rescuer use the correct method to capture the macropod?	Yes	No	N/A
4. Did the rescuer check a deceased female macropod for pouch young and remove it using the correct method?	Yes	No	N/A
5. Did the rescuer search the surrounding area for a joey when attending rescue of a female macropod with signs of having pouch young?	Yes	No	N/A
How to calculate an assessment score			
Step 1: Tally the selected responses for each column, e.g. 2 Yes; 2 No and 1 N/A	2/5	2/5	1/5
Step 2: Subtract the number of Not Applicable (N/A) answers from the total number of target questions. In this example $5 - 1 = 4$ Display the score for each column as a fraction.	2/4	2/4	
Step 3: Convert the above fraction to a percentage (%)	50%	50%	

In this example, the assessor recorded 'Yes' for 2 of the 5 questions, 'No' for 2 questions and N/A for the other. The target question about deceased female macropods did not apply to this assessment because the person did not encounter a deceased female macropod. Therefore, the group member cannot be assessed on this question, which must then be deducted from the total number of target assessment questions.

The total assessment score is 4/5 applicable questions 50% Yes and 50% No.

Insert the score or percentage for 'Yes' in the Assessment Summary.

Section 1: Training

The purpose of this section is to assess the currency of training. This should be done before other sections of the assessment and verified with the group member.

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

Code of Practice standard: 11 Training

Assessment question: Is the member trained to rescue and/or rehabilitate macropods?

Prompts: Check the member's details and group training register before the inspection. Confirm what tasks the member does with macropods and what training they require.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. Is the member authorised to work with macropods?	Yes	No
2. Has the member completed the required training for the tasks they perform?	Yes	No
3. Is the member's training current?	Yes	No

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Section 2: Records management

The purpose of this section is to assess the group member's macropod records, including decisions made about the fate of animals in care. It may help to review the previous year's records before commencing the assessment. Conduct a count of macropod species and numbers on-site before commencing this section (Appendix 1).

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

Code of Practice standards:

12 Record keeping; 10.2 Release site selection; 10.3 Release techniques and 5.1, 5.2 Euthanasia

Assessment Question 1: Is the member's record sheet current, accurate and compliant with the standard?

Prompts: Request to see this report year's record sheet. The fields in the register should be equivalent to the standard, i.e. the data template.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. How many macropods currently in care are listed in the record sheet?	All	Some	None	N/A
2. How many macropods have their rescue date, location and encounter data entered in the record sheet?	All	Some	None	N/A
3. How many macropods have their species, sex and pouch condition entered in the record sheet?	All	Some	None	N/A
4. How many macropods have their weight and stage of development entered in the record sheet?	All	Some	None	N/A
5. How many dead or released macropods have had their fates entered?	All	Some	None	N/A
6. How many macropods transferred to or from another facility have a dated identification record and location of transfer?	All	Some	None	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Code of Practice standards:

12 Record keeping; 10.2 Release site selection; 10.3 Release techniques and 5.1, 5.2 Euthanasia

Assessment Question 2: Were decisions made about the release, euthanasia and permanent care of macropods in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Check the fate and release location details section in the record sheet. Be familiar with the 'Release site selection' and 'When to Euthanase' standards in the code.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. Of the macropods released, how many were put in a suitable environment at or as near as possible to their place of rescue? *	All	Some	None	N/A
2. How many macropods were euthanased in accordance with the criteria in the code (list reasons in notes)?	All	Some	None	N/A
3. How many macropods held in permanent care have written approval from National Parks and Wildlife Service?	All	Some	None	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

*Exclude those animals that received approval from National Parks and Wildlife Service to be placed elsewhere.

Section 3: Facility inspection

This section aims to assess the group members rehabilitation facility, including its housing, husbandry and care procedures. If the facility does not participate in the intensive care, intermediate care or pre-release of macropods, then move to another section and place **N/A** in notes.

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

Section 3a: Housing and Husbandry – Intensive care

Code of Practice standards:

7 Husbandry; 8 Housing (8.1 General requirements and 8.2 Intensive care housing)

Assessment Question 1: Are intensive care housing enclosures (ICEs) constructed, positioned, and maintained in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Ask to see the intensive care macropod enclosures. Be familiar with ICE requirements for small, medium and large macropods. Only answer if macropods are present, otherwise enter N/A in notes.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. How many intensive care enclosures (ICEs) provide sufficient space for the animal to maintain a normal posture and stretch its limbs and body, but not enough to hop and jump?	All	None	>Half	<Half
2. How many joeys in ICEs are provided with and positioned appropriately in an artificial pouch?	All	None	>Half	<Half
3. How many ICEs provide a constant temperature appropriate for the species, stage of development and condition of the macropod?	All	None	>Half	<Half
4. How many ICEs provide a light/dark cycle that replicates outside conditions?	All	None	>Half	<Half
5. How many ICEs are escape-proof and have no hazards that might harm the macropod or the rehabilitator?	All	None	>Half	<Half
6. How many ICEs are positioned to protect each macropod from wild animals, pests, noxious smells, loud noises and strong vibrations?	All	None	>Half	<Half
7. How many ICE's are well ventilated and without draughts?	All	None	>Half	<Half
8. How many ICEs use soft, non-slip substrate?	All	None	>Half	<Half

Section 3a: Housing and Husbandry – Intensive care

9. How many ICEs provide supplementary feed appropriate for species, age and condition of the macropod?	All	None	>Half	<Half
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10. How many enclosures are clean and well maintained?	All	None	>Half	<Half
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Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes: Enter N/A here if the person does not participate in intensive care or has no macropods.

Recommendations:

Section 3b: Housing and Husbandry – Intermediate care

Code of Practice standards:

7 Husbandry; 8 Housing (8.1 General requirements and 8.3 Intermediate care housing)

Assessment Question 1: Are intermediate care housing (ITEs) enclosures constructed, positioned, and maintained according to the standard?

Prompts: Ask to see the intermediate care enclosures for macropods. Be familiar with ITE requirements for small, medium and large macropods. Only answer if macropods are present, otherwise enter N/A in notes.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. How many intermediate care enclosures (ITEs) provide sufficient space for the macropod to move freely while being conveniently sized for capture?	All	None	>Half	<Half
2. How many ITEs with more than one animal provide sufficient space for each individual?	All	None	>Half	<Half
3. How many ITEs are escape-proof and have no hazards that might harm the macropod or the rehabilitator?	All	None	>Half	<Half
4. How many ITEs are positioned to protect each macropod from wild animals, pests, noxious smells, loud noises and strong vibrations?	All	None	>Half	<Half
5. How many ITEs provide a light/dark cycle that replicates outside conditions?	All	None	>Half	<Half
6. How many ITEs have clean drinking water available?	All	None	>Half	<Half
7. How many ITEs provide supplementary feed appropriate for species, age and condition of the macropod?	All	None	>Half	<Half
8. How many ITEs are clean and well maintained?	All	None	>Half	<Half

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes: Enter N/A if the person does not participate in intermediate care or has no macropods.

Recommendations:

Section 3c: Housing and Husbandry – Pre-release housing

Code of Practice standards:

7 Husbandry; 8 Housing (8.1 General requirements and 8.4 Pre-release housing)

Assessment Question 1: Are pre-release care facilities (PREs) constructed, positioned, and maintained according to the standard?

Prompts: Ask to see the pre-release enclosures for macropods. Be familiar with PRE requirements for small, medium and large macropods. Only answer if macropods are present otherwise, enter N/A in notes.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. How many pre-release enclosures (PREs) provide sufficient space for the macropod to move about freely and express a range of natural behaviours?	All	None	>Half	<Half
2. How many PREs provide both a sheltered area and an area exposed to prevailing weather conditions?	All	None	>Half	<Half
3. How many PREs contain habitat elements that enable the macropod to perform natural behaviours?	All	None	>Half	<Half
4. How many PREs with pouches, have the pouches hung under cover?	All	None	>Half	<Half
5. How many PREs have fresh, clean water available?	All	None	>Half	<Half
6. How many PREs with more than one animal provide sufficient space for each individual?	All	None	>Half	<Half
7. How many PREs are escape-proof and have no hazards that might harm the macropod or the rehabilitator?	All	None	>Half	<Half
8. How many PREs provide supplementary feed appropriate for species, age and condition of the macropod?	All	None	>Half	<Half
9. How many PREs are clean and well maintained?	All	None	>Half	<Half

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes: Enter N/A if the person does not have pre-release housing or has no macropods.

Recommendations:

Section 3d: Housing and Husbandry – General care

Code of Practice standards:

6 Care procedures; 7 Husbandry; 9 Suitability for release; 10 Release considerations

Assessment Question: Are macropods in the facility managed according to the standard?

Prompts: Observe the macropods in care and ask to view the husbandry plan if there is one. Ask the following questions and circle the appropriate response. If a macropod is not present, enter N/A.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. How many macropods have undergone a veterinary assessment or assessment by an experienced macropod rehabilitator?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
2. How many macropods suspected of an infectious disease are in isolation?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
3. How many pouch young are weighed regularly and have their weight recorded?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
4. How many hand-reared macropods are fed an appropriate diet with feeding methods and frequency appropriate for species and age (view record)?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A
5. How many macropods are monitored, and have their body condition, hydration levels and behaviour recorded?	All	None	>Half	<Half	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

For macropods about to be released

N/A

If no macropods are ready for release, circle N/A.

1. Has the release suitability of the macropod been confirmed by a veterinarian or experienced macropod rehabilitator?	Yes	No	Some
2. Has the member correctly described why the animal is physically ready for release?	Yes	No	Some
3. Has the member correctly described why the animal is behaviourally ready for release?	Yes	No	Some

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

Convert to a percentage (%)

Section 3d: Housing and Husbandry – General care

Notes:

Recommendations:

Section 4: Field observation

This section is a practical assessment of the application of the rescue, transport and release standards in the code. It is best conducted in the field through observation, although parts such as personal protective equipment (PPE), rescue equipment and release considerations may be completed as part of the facility inspection and record management sections.

Member Name:	Signature:	Date:
Assessor Name:	Signature	Date:

Section 4a: Rescue and Transport

Code of Practice standards: 3 Rescue; 4 Transport

Assessment Question 1: Did the member prepare for the rescue in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Observe how the member prepares for a rescue.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

Target questions	Yes	No	Some	N/A
1. Did the rescuer assess the macropod to determine if rescue is required?				
2. Did the rescuer consider all the risks from environmental hazards to themselves, surrounding observers and the macropod?				
3. Did the rescuer possess the appropriate PPE?				
4. Did the rescuer consider the number of personnel required to rescue a macropod based on species and size of the animal?				

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Assessment Question 2: Was the rescue of the macropod undertaken in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Observe the method and conduct of the macropod's actual rescue.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. Did the rescuer use the correct rescue equipment?	Yes	No	N/A
2. Did the rescuer limit the exposure to additional stressors such as onlookers, loud noises and other animals?	Yes	No	N/A
3. Did the rescuer use the correct method to capture the macropod?	Yes	No	N/A
4. Did the rescuer check a deceased female macropod for pouch young and remove it using the correct method?	Yes	No	N/A
5. Did the rescuer search the surrounding area for a joey when attending rescue of a female macropod with signs of having pouch young?	Yes	No	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Assessment Question 3: Was the macropod transported in accordance with the standard?

Prompts: Observe the method and conduct of the macropod's physical transport.

Target questions

Select one response for each question

1. Was the transport container appropriate for the species, size and condition of the macropod?	Yes	No	N/A
2. Was the transport contained secure and designed to prevent injuries to the macropod?	Yes	No	N/A
3. Was the container designed to minimise light, noise, vibrations and prevent contact with people and animals during transport?	Yes	No	N/A
4. Was the macropod positioned so its breathing is not restricted, and pain or discomfort minimised?	Yes	No	N/A
5. Was the transport container placed in the correct position in the vehicle?	Yes	No	N/A
6. Was the temperature and condition of the macropod monitored during transport?	Yes	No	N/A

Tally responses for each column and display the score as a fraction

(remember to deduct any N/As from the total)

Convert to a percentage (%)

Notes:

Recommendations:

Assessment summary

There is no pass or fail associated with this assessment. Its purpose is to identify those standards in the code that can be improved upon. Specific recommendations for improvement can be provided below. A timeframe should be discussed and agreed with the group member to implement any recommendations.

Summarise the outcome of the assessment in the table below:

- circle Yes for each section assessed
- enter the total score as a fraction (i.e. X/Y) for answers with a Yes or All
- enter the percentage score (%) for answers with a Yes or All.

Assessed	Section	Grade score Yes/All	Grade score (%) Yes/All
Yes	Training		
Yes	Record Keeping (Assessment Q1)		
Yes	Record Keeping (Assessment Q2)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (Intensive care)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (Intermediate care)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (Pre-release care)		
Yes	Housing/Husbandry (General care)		
Yes	Rescue and Transport (Assessment Q1)		
Yes	Rescue and Transport (Assessment Q2)		
Yes	Rescue and Transport (Assessment Q3)		

Recommendations:

More information

- [Code of Practice](#)
- [Data report template](#)

Appendix 1: Animals currently on-site

This species summary sheet should be completed before conducting an assessment. It will help the assessor reconcile the species and animals currently on-site with what is listed on the record sheet. Assessors should ask the group member to confirm the taxonomic identification of each species.

Common name e.g. Eastern grey kangaroo	Number in rehabilitation	Number in permanent care
Total ()		

Calculate the total number of animals on-site by adding together the number of animals in rehabilitation plus the number of animals in permanent care.