DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT

Data Reporting Instructions

Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector

Cover photo: Rainbow lorikeet. Hannah Ryan/DPIE

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Introduction

This document is an instructional reference guide for wildlife rehabilitation providers to assist them with their annual reporting requirements. The data provided by wildlife rehabilitators is valuable information that offers an insight into rehabilitation practices, emerging wildlife trends and conservation outcomes.

Each year the wildlife rehabilitation sector in New South Wales rescues over 100,000 animals from over 800 species. Approximately one-third of these animals are released back into the wild. The wildlife rehabilitation volunteer network extends across 28 organisations and more than 5600 individuals. The service provided by this sector is an invaluable contribution to the community and the wildlife they rescue. In the last seven years, 500,000 records from the rehabilitation sector have been uploaded to BioNet to be used by government, scientists and decision-makers.

As part of their licensing conditions, wildlife rehabilitation providers in New South Wales must maintain a current register of all protected fauna reported, encountered or rescued. These records must be submitted annually to the Wildlife Licensing and Management Unit of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The full annual reporting requirements are explained in the _Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Fauna_.

The data collected by wildlife rehabilitation providers is being increasingly recognised as a valuable tool for research, decision-making and conservation. It is also important for the sector to understand trends in rehabilitation, develop better treatments and identify threatening processes.

In 2019 the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) reviewed the annual reporting templates in collaboration with the wildlife rehabilitation sector, and this reference guide was created as part of this process to encourage quality and consistent data collection across the sector.

The annual reporting required by each licence holder consists of two separate reports:

1. **Detailed report** – a register of all animal records for the financial year.
2. **Combined report** – a register of all animals that are transferred in accordance with licence conditions, approved animals in permanent care, all preserved specimens, and a register of members.

Note: The summary report is no longer a reporting requirement.

The following instructions refer specifically to the two reports listed above. Individual wildlife rehabilitation providers may have additional reporting requirements for their members.

Detailed report

The detailed report records all animal records (excluding sightings) for the financial year (1 July to 30 June). The purpose of the report is to record key data on the wildlife entering rehabilitation. The report is in six different sections:

1. Species name
2. Encounter details
3. Species information
4. Rehabilitator name
5. Fate details
6. Notes.

There are six different tabs on the spreadsheet that you should familiarise yourself with:

1. Datasheet – this is where the data should be entered.
2. Species list – the list of species names that must be used to fill in the common name column in the datasheet.
3. Encounter type – provides a list of the encounter type options and an example and definition for each.
4. Animal condition – provides a list of the animal condition options and an example and definition for each.
5. Fate – provides a list of the fate options and an example and definition for each.
6. Reference data – this is a combination of all the reference options required to complete the datasheet.

When filling out this report there are a few general tips to help keep the information as accurate as possible. These include:

- ensure you have the correct spelling, particularly for addresses
- do not create your own species name, use the species list provided
- do not leave a field blank or listed as unknown if you know the reason or condition; doing so leads to inaccurate and diluted data that does not reflect the true impacts affecting wildlife across the state
- be as accurate as possible when recording addresses.

Photo 1   Potoroo trapping, Barren Grounds. Michael Van Ewijk/DPIE

1. Species name

What's in a name?

While looking at the data collected over seven years, it was discovered there were over 30 different ways the common brushtail possum was being recorded.

Similarly, ambiguous species names such as 'possum' or 'unknown possum' have been used frequently, and this makes it difficult to ascertain the actual species. Was it a common ringtail possum or a common brushtail possum?

Another common example of this ambiguity is using 'lorikeet' as the species name. Four species of lorikeet occur within New South Wales, and 'lorikeet' cannot accurately be attributed to any one of these species.

These practices dilute the data because an ambiguous record cannot be attributed to an individual species and so cannot be included in the analysis of data at the species level.

The species name column has a drop-down list for the common name of the species. This list can also be found in the species list tab on the template.

The species names in the list are the same as those used by the Government's BioNet data repository tool. This will improve the consistency of data being recorded across the sector. The species list names must be used, so that species are being labelled correctly and consistently across organisations.

The use of inconsistent naming creates inaccuracies in the records and can make it difficult to attribute a record to a particular species. This means that the records may not accurately reflect what is happening with certain species, and core trends in diseases and distribution could potentially be missing.

Whilst there are times when the exact species may be unknown the correct and full species name must be utilised wherever possible.

The species drop-down list has the top 30 rescued species listed first and then lists every species in alphabetical order.

If the species name is not in the species list, there is an option in the drop-down list called 'Species Not Listed'. If this option is selected please write the full species name in the notes column of the spreadsheet. Where it is found that a particular species is often being recorded in this way, the species list will be updated to include this species in the following year.

2. Encounter details

There are nine columns to fill out in the encounter details section of the detailed report. See Figure 1 below for the column titles.

Encounter details								
ID Number	Date of Encounter	Encounter Type	Location Details: Exact Address	Location Postcode	Location Details: GPS Coordinates: Latitude	Location Details: GPS Coordinates: Longitude	Location Details: Additional Information	Animal Condition

Figure 1   **Encounter details in the detailed report**

ID number

The ID number refers to the unique number attributed to each animal that comes into care. This number will be different for each wildlife rehabilitation provider. A unique ID number is required for keeping track of an individual animal; it is particularly valuable when animals are being transferred between organisations so as not to have a duplication of records in the data.

Date of encounter

This refers to the date the animal was rescued.

Encounter type

Encounter type refers to the immediate cause or reason for encountering an animal. See Appendix B for the list of encounter types and their definitions and examples. Selecting the correct encounter type is important because it enables us to better understand trends in why animals are being rescued. This enables managers and researchers to analyse the data and develop ways to mitigate these causes.

Location details

The location details record the place the animal was encountered or rescued. These details must be as accurate as possible, to ensure quality data. Accurate location details help in determining hotspots, mapping geographic ranges and determining other patterns associated with an animal's encounter location. If an animal is collected from a vet, the address of where the animal was found, not the vet address, should be recorded in this column. There are three options for recording the location details representing three different ways in which location data is collected. This is to allow greater ease in collating this information however all three options do not need to be completed for each record.

Location details: exact address

If location details cannot be provided in the form of GPS coordinates the next best thing is the exact address. This address should include the street number, name and suburb in the one cell.

Location details: GPS coordinates – latitude and longitude

These columns should be used when recording the rescue location in the form of latitude and longitude coordinates.

A GPS location can be found easily using a smartphone or a computer; see Appendix A for instructions. GPS coordinates are the preferred format for providing location details as they are the most accurate.

Location details: additional information

You should use this column when providing extra information to the GPS coordinates or exact location or when neither of these fields is known. Be as specific as possible here; for example, instead of entering 'Fake Street' you should say '350 metres west of Imaginary Lane on Fake St'.

Location postcode

The postcode of the rescue location should be entered in this field.

Animal condition

The animal condition is defined as the state the animal is in when it is initially assessed. To input the animal condition, you must select one of the options from the drop-down list. These options can also be found in the reference data tab. See Appendix C for the list of animal conditions with their definitions and some examples.

3.   Species information

Species information consists of four columns specific to the animal being rescued.

Species information			
Sex	Life stage	Initial weight	Pouch condition

Figure 2   Species information in the detailed report

Sex

The gender of the animal should be recorded in the sex column. This information can help determine gender patterns in animals requiring rescue or for certain encounter types. The category options for this include male, female, hermaphrodite and unknown. Hermaphrodite is a condition occasionally seen in koalas. Use the unknown category for species where sex is hard to determine, e.g. very young animals or birds and reptiles that don't display sexual dimorphism.

Life stage

Life stage refers to broader developmental stages, not age in months or years. The categories in this section have been purposely designed to be broad to encompass the various life stages and terminologies used across species.
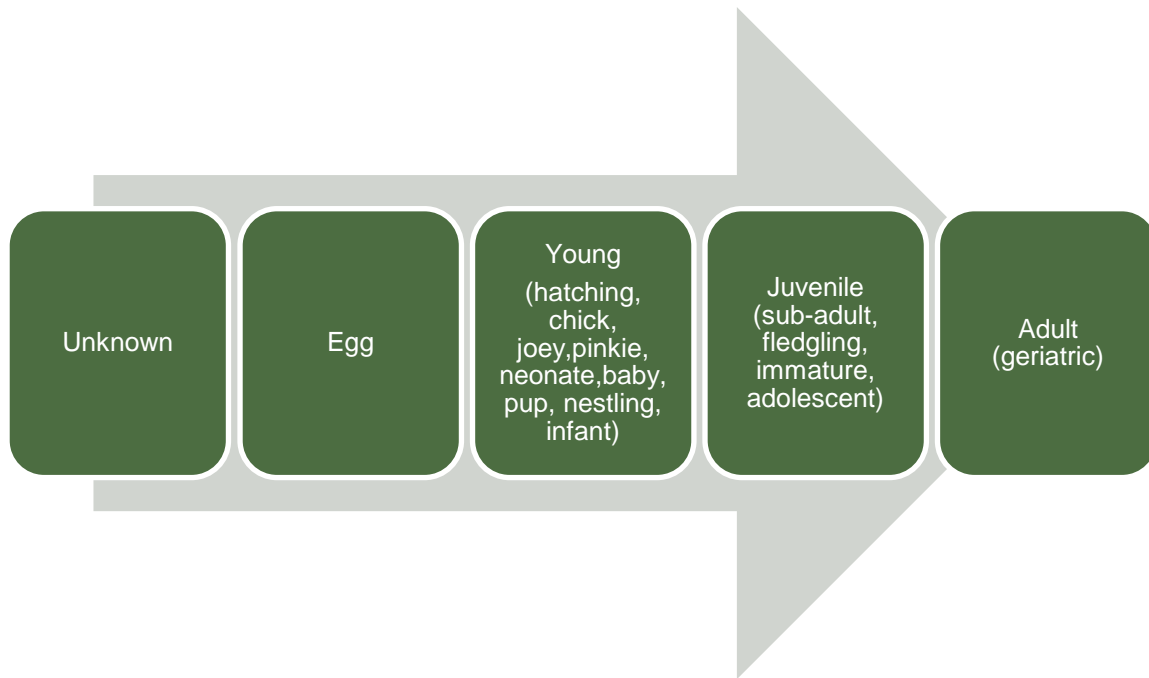
Figure 3   Life stages and their commonly used terms

Initial weight

The weight the animal is when it comes into rehabilitation should be recorded here; that is, the first time the animal is weighed. It is important to specify what units the weight has been recorded in, e.g. grams (g) or kilograms (kg).

Pouch condition

The pouch condition column, as the name indicates, is to record the pouch condition of female marsupials. This condition is used to record the breeding status of females coming into care. Mothers with back young can also be recorded here.

There are six categories to choose from.

1. Lactating – if a female is lactating but there is no joey.

2. Non-lactating – if the animal rescued is a female but she is not lactating.

3. Pinkie attached – if there is a pinkie fused to the teat.

4. Pouch young – if there is a pouch young that is not fused to the teat.

5. Back young – a female with a joey at the back riding stage.

6. NA – not applicable e.g. if it is a male.

4.   Rehabilitator name

This is the name of the person who undertakes the majority of rehabilitation for this animal. When researchers are looking into this data they may have further questions about certain animals and knowing the name of the rehabilitator will help them direct their queries.

5.   Fate details

There are six columns for the fate details and each one records a particular element of an animal's release.

Fate details					
Fate	Date of fate	Release location: exact address	Release location: distance from encounter location	Tag/band colour and number	Microchip number

Figure 4   Fate details in the detailed report

Fate

Fate is defined to report the outcome for the animal. See Appendix D for a list of the categories available for fate and accompanying definitions and examples. Fate gives us an indication of the outcome of the rehabilitation process.

Date of fate

This is where the date of the fate of the animal should be recorded; for example, if the animal was released, the date of its release should be entered in this column.

Release location: exact address

This column records the location an animal was released. As with encounter location, it is important to be as accurate as possible when entering this information. The release location should be recorded as the exact address.

Release location: distance from encounter location

This column gives you the option, when the exact release location is unknown, to estimate how far from the encounter location the animal was released. There is a drop-down list you can select from that ranges from less than 25 metres up to 100 kilometres.

Tag/band colour and number

The *Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Fauna* recommends in its guidelines that wildlife should be uniquely tagged for identification prior to their release. Other species-specific codes (e.g. koalas) require it as a standard. Any external tag or band applied to an animal as an identification tool should be recorded in this column. Both the colour of the tag and the number written on it should be recorded.

Microchip number

If an animal is microchipped, the microchip number should be recorded in this column.

6.   Notes

Any additional information can be included in the notes field; specifically, any further information about the release location, and if you have selected the species not listed option in the drop-down box for the common name, the species name should be recorded in the notes column. If the fate selected is euthanased by group and the method of euthanasia was by firearms please record this in the notes column.

Photo 2   Koala trapping and tagging. Marie-Claire Demers/DPIE

Frequently asked questions about the detailed report

1.   What if I cannot find the species I have rescued in the pre-fill species list?

If the species does not appear in the embedded species list type in 'Species Not Listed'. This will record species not listed in the common name column and you can add the species name in full to the notes column.

Note: If it is a relatively common species it is always good to double-check the list and ensure you are entering the full name of the animal.

2.   Do I need to record domestic species encountered?

No. Although you might take a call for a domestic species needing help and refer the member of the public to another organisation to assist them, it is not necessary to include this information in the detailed report.

3.   What happens if I have bad reception and cannot record the GPS location?

There can be times when reception is poor, making it is hard to determine the GPS location using your phone. In instances such as these, record the location details in the exact address format. You can look up the address on google maps to determine GPS coordinates when you return home or you can record the exact address for this rescue in the location details: exact address column.

4.   Can I use the name I have given to the animal as its ID number?

No. The ID number must be a unique number ascribed to the animal. Using the animal's name in this field can lead to confusion as to which animal it is because many of the same names are used over time and across organisations, and can also appear as duplicate records. The unique ID number is also important for when animals are transferred between groups and when trying to identify multiple animals from the same location.

5.   Do I record sightings in the detailed report?

No. The detailed report is specifically for animals that require action by a wildlife rehabilitation provider, so sightings should not be recorded in this register.

6.   Do I need to record each animal individually?

Yes. For example, if there are three chicks from the same nest, each chick should have its own record or call sheet and ID number.

7.   If the animal is picked up from the vet should I record the vet's address?

No. The location the animal was found and not the address of the vet it was picked up from should be recorded in the location details column.

8.   What type of information should be included in the notes column?

If you selected the species not listed option in the common names column the full name of the species should be recorded in the notes column. If you have any additional information you think is important to record for an individual animal, you can add this in the notes column.

Commonly reported scenarios – understanding the pathways

The following section looks at common rescue scenarios and how the data should be captured for each scenario to ensure consistency in reporting.

Scenario 1:

An eastern grey kangaroo has been hit by a car, she has sustained physical trauma to the head and is deceased with an uninjured viable joey in the pouch.

This common rescue scenario has two records.

1. The deceased mother
   Species name: eastern grey kangaroo
   Encounter type: collision – motor vehicle
   Animal condition: injury to head
   Fate: dead prior to rescuer arriving

2. The joey
   Species name: eastern grey kangaroo
   Encounter type: collision – motor vehicle
   Animal condition: orphaned

Scenario 2:

An uninjured shingleback lizard has been found outside of its normal distribution and is ascertained to be an escaped pet. The shingleback has no injuries and attempts to find its original owner are unsuccessful, so it is rehomed with a person who has the relevant licence.

Species name: shingleback lizard

Encounter type: domestic pet – escaped

Animal condition: no apparent distress

Fate: rehomed

Scenario 3:

An adult rainbow lorikeet is found on the ground. It is not injured but is unable to fly with poorly developed wing and tail feathers. The lorikeet is confirmed to have runners by a veterinarian and is euthanased.

Species name: rainbow lorikeet

Encounter type: disease – PBFD

Animal condition: diseased

Fate: euthanased by vet

Scenario 4:

An adult grey-headed flying-fox is found with severe dehydration after a week of extremely high temperatures. The flying-fox is still in care at the time of reporting.

Species name: grey-headed flying-fox

Encounter type: event – extreme heat

Animal condition: dehydrated

Fate: in care

Scenario 5:

A juvenile male koala has been attacked by a dog. He has severe puncture wounds to his neck and is bleeding. He also has ocular chlamydia. The koala is seen by a veterinarian who treats its wounds and provides pain relief. The koala, unfortunately, dies overnight.

Species name: koala

Encounter type: attack – dog

Animal condition: multiple health issues

Fate: died in care

Notes: had multiple puncture wounds and ocular chlamydia

Photo 3   Koala at the Koala Hospital, Port Macquarie. David Finnegan/DPIE

Combined report

The combined report is a spreadsheet comprised of five tabs. The purpose of each tab is summarised below:

- Nil return – if you have no information to declare for the combined report then you only need to complete this tab.
- Transferred animal register – if any animals have been transferred from your group during the reporting period the details must be recorded here.
- Permanent care register – any animals that are in permanent care during the reporting year must be recorded here.
- Preserved specimen register – any preserved specimens being held need to be listed here.
- Register of members – an organisation's members, including their addresses, email addresses and phone numbers must be recorded here.

The first line of each register is an example of how to complete the fields, to assist you with filling out the report. We will look at each register in more detail below.

Nil return

This page provides an overview of the entire report. Some individual licence holders will have had no animals that have been transferred or are in permanent care, nor do they have any preserved specimens or members, so they will only need to fill out this first tab of the report. Organisations will need to answer yes or no to the questions asked and for any question they answer yes to, they must fill out the corresponding tab in the report.

Transferred animal register

This register is broken up into three sections – animal details, transfer details and the institution, organisation or individual that received the animal.

One of the most important details when transferring an animal is ensuring you record both the unique identification number of that animal for your organisation and the unique identification number that the receiving organisation applied to the animal. This is so we can keep track of animals that have been transferred and cross-reference records to avoid duplications.

Permanent care register

The permanent care register has four sections to record information on animals that are in permanent care with your organisation. Any animal in permanent care must have gone through the process of getting approval from the NPWS Licensing Team.

This register is a living document that should be added to each reporting year. This means you report every animal in permanent care during the reporting year, not just the ones that were approved for permanent care during the reporting year.

If an animal in permanent care dies during the reporting year, this should be recorded in the animal status column for the annual report and then this animal does not need to be recorded in the following year's report.

Preserved specimen register

Any preserved specimens held by your organisation should be recorded in this register. It is a condition of your licence that a preserved specimen is given a register reference number and that this number is kept with the specimen. The register reference number should also be recorded here.

Register of members

This register provides details on the members within your group. For each member, you will need to record their Member ID number, name, address, email address and phone number. Further to this, there are columns in this register for you to indicate if a member holds an executive, coordinator or mentor position, and record if they are rehabilitating koalas, flying-foxes, birds of prey, venomous snakes or marine reptiles.

This register provides valuable information about the number of people and positions across the wildlife rehabilitation sector and offers valuable insight into the skills and capacity within the sector.

Where to get further information about the reporting requirements

If you have any questions about the annual reporting requirements you can email the NPWS Licensing Team at Wildlife.Licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Photo 4   **Eastern grey kangaroo, Depot Beach. David Finnegan/DPIE**

Appendix A: How to find GPS coordinates

Using the Maps app on a smartphone

Step 1

Open the Maps app on your phone.
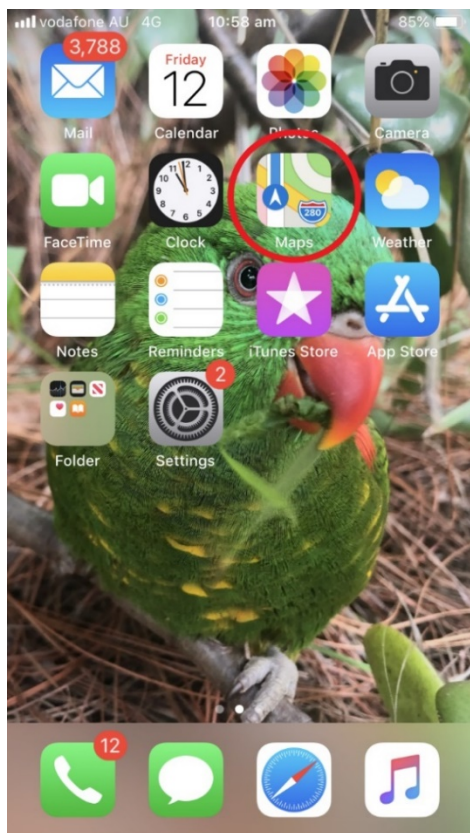
Step 2

The blue dot indicates your current location on the map. Touch the dot to bring up a panel of location details [Google Maps app – touch and hold for a few seconds].
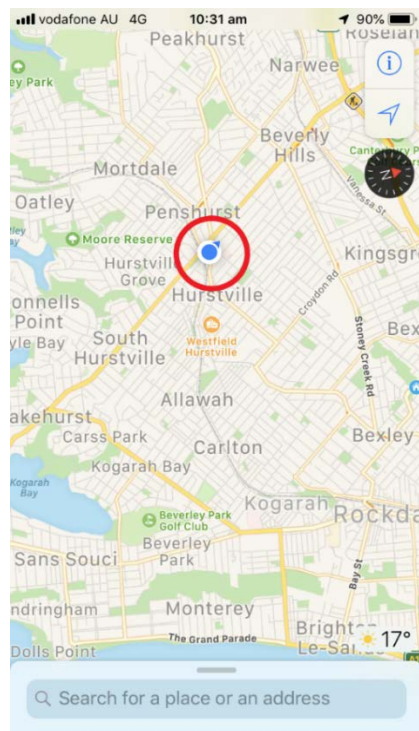
Step 3

Drag the panel up to reveal Latitude and Longitude. You can screenshot* the coordinates or write them down to update the records after the rescue.
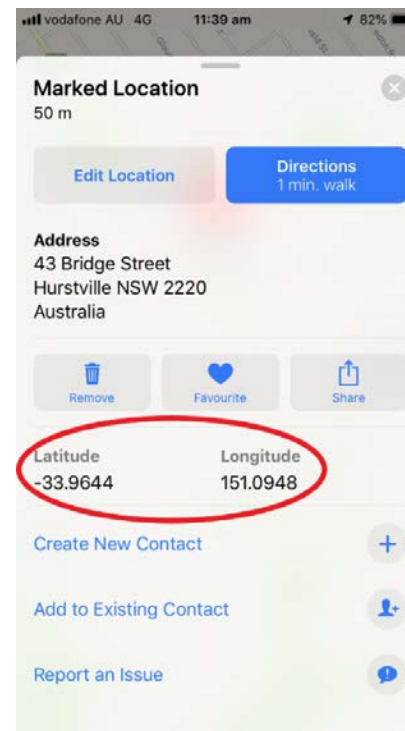
*Screenshots can be taken by holding the right button and home button down at the same time on your iPhone, or the power button and volume down button on an android. Screenshots will be stored in your photo gallery.

Using Google Maps on a computer

Step 1: Open Google Maps in your preferred search engine and type in the address of the rescue.
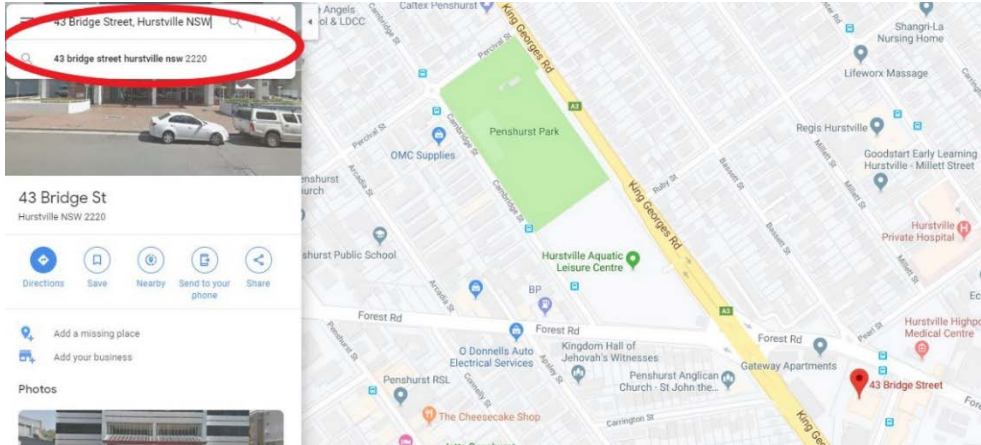
Step 2: Right-click on the red pin (this indicates the address you have typed in) and select 'What's here?'
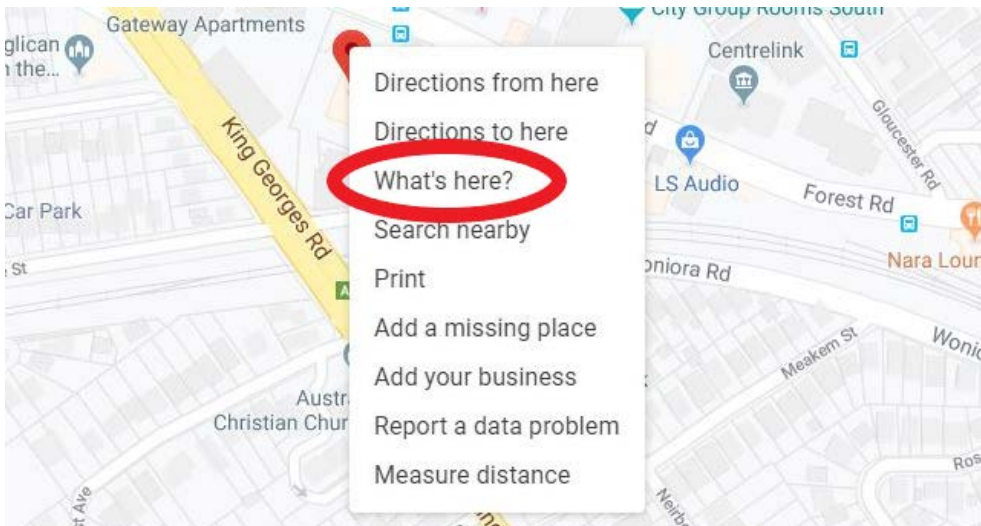
Step 3: Record the coordinates that show up at the bottom of the screen.

Appendix B: Encounter types – definitions and examples

The **encounter type** is the cause or reason for encountering the animal.

Encounter type	Definition	Examples
Abandoned/orphaned	An animal's parent is known to be deceased or it is found on its own with no sign of its parents or family group.	Joey removed from the pouch of its deceased mother; possum ejects joey from its pouch in time of stress; a dependent young is found and the parent's condition and location is unknown; a chick cannot be reunited with its parents because the nest is too high and so needs to come into care.
Attack – bird	Animal has been attacked by a bird.	Crested pigeon that has been attacked by noisy miners.
Attack – cat	Animal has been attacked by a cat.	Ringtail possum that has been brought in by the cat.
Attack – dog	Animal has been attacked by a dog.	Brushtail possum that has been bitten by a dog.
Attack – fox	Animal has been attacked by a fox.	Duck that has been attacked by a fox.
Attack – same species	Animal has been attacked by a conspecific (i.e. member of its own species).	Noisy miner that has been attacked by other noisy minors.
Attack – suspected/other	Animal has sustained injuries or is behaving in a way that suggests it has been attacked by something.	This should be used when the source of the attack is unknown; human attack should not be categorised here but in the 'Intentional harm' encounter type.
Collision – building	Animal has had an impact with a building including windows.	Bird that has flown into a window.
Collision – motor vehicle	Animal has had an impact with a car.	Macropod hit by a car; tawny frogmouth hit by a car.
Collision – other	Animal has had an impact with something, whether a natural or manmade structure.	Bird that has flown into a glass pool fence.
Collision – vessel strike	Animal has had an impact with a boat.	Seabird that has collided with a boat.
Dependent on parent taken into care	A dependent young has been brought into care as a result of its parent requiring treatment.	A dependent koala joey is not ill or injured but is being kept with its mother to be raised and fed while the mother undergoes rehabilitation.

Encounter type	Definition	Examples
Disease – botulism	Animal is confirmed either visually or through vet assessment to be suffering from botulism.	Botulism is a disease common in waterbirds that causes paralysis.
Disease – chlamydia	Animal is confirmed either visually or through vet assessment to have chlamydia.	Ocular and urogenital chlamydia in koalas; chlamydia in birds.
Disease – external parasite	Animal has parasites on its body.	Paralysis tick; lice; maggots; flat flies.
Disease – internal parasite	Animal has visible internal parasites or confirmed symptoms associated with internal parasites.	Examples of internal parasites include gapeworm, tapeworm, throat worm.
Disease – mange	Animal has mange (i.e. scabies mites) regardless of what stage.	Wombats or other mammals with mange.
Disease – other	Animal is affected with any other disease not listed as a category.	Exudative dermatitis in possums.
Disease – PBFD	Birds suffering from psittacine circoviral disease, aka beak and feather, beak and feather disease virus, and runners.	Runners in lorikeets; beak and feather in sulphur-crested cockatoos; psittacine circoviral disease in birds of prey.
Domestic pet – escaped	Animal is found and determined through species or behavioural characteristics to be a lost or escaped domestic pet.	This is typically a bird or reptile. Common escaped pets include cockatiels, sulphur-crested cockatoos, rainbow lorikeets, bearded dragons and pythons.
Domestic pet – seized	Pet has come into care as a result of an authorised seizure of animals.	An animal has been obtained as a result of a police/government seizure and is being held until court proceedings have been finalised.
Domestic pet – surrendered	Pet animal has been handed over to the organisation.	Owner can no longer look after their pet lizard or bird and is giving it to the organisation for rehoming.
Electrocution	Animal is injured or killed via an electric shock.	Flying-fox on powerlines; possum that has been electrocuted on wire.
Entanglement – marine debris	Animal is impacted by any manmade material in and around waterways including fishing gear and litter, in a manner from which it cannot free itself.	Pelican with fishing hook embedded in its chest; seal entangled in fishing line.

Encounter type	Definition	Examples
Entanglement – netting	Animal is impacted by netting (other than marine) in a manner from which it cannot free itself.	Snake or flying-fox caught in fruit tree netting.
Entanglement – other	Animal is impacted by any material or object without a standalone category in a manner from which it cannot free itself.	Animal is entangled in rope, shoelace, plastic rings.
Entanglement – wire	Animal is impacted by barbed wire in a manner from which it cannot free itself.	Flying-fox entangled in barbed wire fencing; 'fence-hanger' in kangaroos; glider entangled in barbed wire fencing.
Entrapment	Animal is stuck in such a manner that it cannot free itself.	Animal has fallen into a storm drain and cannot free itself; possum stuck in a chimney; bird stuck in roof or wall cavity; kangaroo with bin lid stuck over its head.
Event – drought	Animal is suffering from the impacts of drought, i.e. prolonged period of low rainfall leading to a lack of water.	Malnourished or dehydrated macropods in drought affected area.
Event – extreme heat	Animal is suffering from the impacts of prolonged periods of abnormally high temperatures.	Flying-fox heat stress events.
Event – fire	Animal is suffering from the impacts of fire either natural or manmade.	Bushfire burn victims.
Event – flood	Animal is suffering from the impacts of flood.	Animal waterlogged in flood event.
Event – storm	Animal is suffering from the impacts of a storm.	Bird has been blown out of nest or off migratory course due to storm event.
Fallen from nest or tree	Animal has fallen from a nest or tree and the cause cannot be attributed to any other encounter type.	Nestling bird fallen from nest in high winds; nestling bird failed attempt at fledging; possum fallen from a tree.
Fouled by substance	Animal is partially or wholly covered by a substance.	Animal in an oil spill or stuck to an insect sticky trap.
Human impact – habitat alteration/tree felling	Animal is displaced or otherwise affected by localised alteration of their habitat or immediate environment.	This is not habitat loss on a mass scale. This is referring to animals that have been immediately displaced or needing relocation due to local development or a tree being chopped down.

Encounter type	Definition	Examples
Human impact – intentional harm	Animal has been injured by purposeful human action.	Acts of cruelty; shooting; physical violence; illegal trapping.
Human impact – Interference	Animal has been interfered with by a member of the public, regardless of their intent.	Fledgling birds in spring; people keeping orphaned joeys and calling days/weeks later.
Ingestion of a foreign object	Animal has taken into its body via the mouth an object that it would not normally or should not normally ingest.	Snake swallowing golf ball or artificial eggs; seagull that has ingested a fishing hook.
Poisoned	Animal has ingested a poisonous substance either directly or indirectly.	Possum that has eaten snail or rat bait; bird of prey that has eaten a rodent affected by bait.
Negative interaction	A person has reported a negative interaction with an animal and requested action.	Ducklings in a backyard pool; snake under a fridge; possum in the house.
Stranded/haul out	Whale, dolphin or turtle has been found on the land and cannot return itself to the water, or seal or penguin has temporarily left the water and is found on land.	Examples included in the definition.
Unknown	The reason for the animal coming into care cannot be determined and is therefore not known.	
Unsuitable environment	An animal is located in an environment that poses a risk to itself or that it would not typically be found in.	Echidna crossing a road.

Appendix C: Animal condition – definitions and examples

Animal condition is the state the animal is in when it is initially assessed.

Animal condition	Definition	Examples
Abnormal behaviour	Animal is displaying behaviours that are not typical of its species or that do not seem quite right in the situation.	Kangaroo not moving away when approached by humans; koala that has been sitting on the ground for a few days.
Burnt	Animal is wounded, altered or impacted by fire or heat.	Burnt paws, fur, skin as a result of bushfire, hot pavement or other surfaces; burnt from a barbeque.
Cold stress/hypothermia	Abnormally low body temperature.	Symptoms include shivering, fatigue, lack of mental awareness, shallow and/or slow breathing.
Concussed	Animal appears to be suffering from an impact causing temporary unconsciousness or confusion.	Bird has flown into a window.
Dehydrated	Excess loss of body water.	Any animal suffering symptoms of dehydration which include sunken eyes, skin tenting, lethargy, dry mouth, cold extremities.
Difficulty breathing	Animal is demonstrating trouble breathing.	Heaving; rapid inhalation.
Diseased	Animal that is suffering from disease, either internal or external.	Beak and feather; lyssavirus; mange; chlamydia; chytrid.
Exhausted	Complete lack of energy.	Wedge-tailed shearwaters that have flown off their migratory flight path and cannot resume flight due to exhaustion.
Eye Injury	Animal has suffered injury to the eye.	Animal with infected eye; cataracts; animal with damaged eye.
Feather/fur damage	Animal has damage to or a lack of feathers or fur.	Missing tail feathers; damaged wing feathers.
Float	The accumulation of gas in the body cavity and gut of a sea turtle, making it incapable of diving.	Buoyant sea turtle.
Geriatric	The only condition obviously affecting the animal is that it is old.	Koala with significant tooth wear as a result of age, causing it to starve.

Animal condition	Definition	Examples
Heat stress/hyperthermia	Too much heat is absorbed by the animal, causing stress. Animal has overheated.	Flying-fox in extreme temperatures; symptoms include open mouth breathing (gaping), panting, licking of forearms.
Humanised	Animal has been cared for by a member of the public for a prolonged period and is displaying abnormal behaviour or dependence toward humans.	Joey kangaroo seeking out the attention of people.
Infection	Includes infection both in and/or outside of the body.	An injury or wound has become infected.
Injury to beak/mouth	Animal has sustained physical trauma to the beak or mouth.	Cracked beak; hard palate fracture.
Injury to body	Animal has sustained physical trauma to the body, not limbs, tail or head/face.	Puncture wounds to the body.
Injury to fin	Animal has sustained physical trauma to the fin.	Turtle has been hit by a propeller causing lacerations to the fin.
Injury to forelimb/wing	Animal has sustained physical trauma to the forelimb/wing.	Fracture or broken bone in the wing.
Injury to head	Animal has sustained physical trauma to the head.	Pecking wound on head.
Injury to hindlimb	Animal has sustained physical trauma to the hindlimb.	Hip fracture or broken tibia.
Injury to patagium	A glider or bat has sustained injury to its patagium, i.e. the membrane between the forelimbs and hindlimbs that enables flight/gliding.	Glider that has a tear in its patagium.
Injury to tail	Animal has sustained physical trauma to the tail.	Missing part of tail; wound to tail.
Internal injury	Animal has sustained internal trauma.	Internal bleeding; puncture of air sacs; ruptured spleen.
Malnourished	Animal is suffering from a lack of quality food.	Animal is underweight/emaciated.
Moribund	Animal appears non-responsive, is near death or in the process of dying.	Koala that is so ill, old or impacted by disease that it is close to death.

Animal condition	Definition	Examples
Multiple health issues	Animal is suffering from several health issues and its condition cannot be attributed to a single one.	Geriatric koala that is suffering from chlamydia and has multiple injuries from being hit by a car.
Myopathy	A non-infection condition in which muscle damage results from extreme exertion, stress or struggle.	Kangaroo that has been chased by a dog; flying-fox that has been struggling for a prolonged period.
Neurological damage	Damage to the brain, spine and nerves.	'Stargazing' in reptiles; loss of sensation; seizures; head tilting; blindness; muscle weakness; confusion.
No apparent distress	Animal appears stable and there is no discernible disorder.	Animal that has no health concerns and is being relocated; an animal that appears to be healthy with no obvious signs of ailment.
No apparent injury	Animal is uninjured.	Waterbird that is entangled in netting but has not sustained any injury.
Orphaned	Mother of the animal is known to be deceased.	Joey in the pouch of its deceased mother.
Paralysis	Loss of the ability to move limbs.	Animal is unable to move back legs.
Parasite burden	An animal that is suffering from a higher than average parasite load.	Eastern blue-tongued lizard that's body is covered in ticks.
Shell injury	Turtle has sustained injury to any part of its shell.	Eastern snake-necked turtle that has a fractured shell.
Shock	A critical condition caused by a sudden decrease in blood flow resulting in poor oxygen delivery to the body.	Pale gums, respiratory failure, hyperventilation, rapid and faint heartbeat, cold to touch.
Skin problem	Animal is suffering from a skin condition requiring treatment.	Dermatitis.
Tumour	Swelling of an area of the body caused by abnormal overgrowth of tissue.	Skin cancer in an animal; facial tumours.
Unknown	The condition of the animal is not known and could not be determined during its time in care.	Animal is not healthy but the condition cannot be determined.
Waterlogged	Saturated or full of water.	An animal rescued from a pool.

Appendix D: Fate – definitions and examples

The **fate** is the outcome for the animal.

Fate	Definition	Examples
Advice Provided	The situation was handled by providing advice to an enquiry.	Member of the public enquires about possums in the roof, nesting brush turkeys, etc. and is provided with advice only.
Could not locate for rescue	Animal is unable to be located for rescue.	Called out to rescue a bird on the ground and when the rescuer arrives they cannot find it; member of the public calls to tell you that the animal has disappeared.
Dead prior to rescuer arriving	Animal has died between the time the call was logged and a rescuer arrived, or is an animal that is deceased and requires pouch checking.	When the rescuer arrives at the rescue location they determine the animal has already died; a member of the public rings back after logging an incident to report the animal has died.
Died in care	Animal has died any time between the initial rescue and before being released.	Animal died after being rescued.
Escaped from care	Animal has freed itself from its care facilities and cannot be located.	Possum escapes from its enclosure and cannot be found.
Euthanased by rehabilitation group	Confirmed euthanasia by the rehabilitation group based on approved methods as outlined in the species' relevant code of practice.	Animal has been euthanased by a member of a group following approved methods as outlined in the code of practice; approved member that holds the required firearms licence euthanasing a kangaroo using a firearm.
Euthanased by vet	Confirmed euthanasia of the animal by a veterinarian.	Animal has been euthanased by a qualified veterinarian.
Euthanased by police	Animal has been euthanased using a firearm by a police officer.	Police are called out to euthanase a kangaroo on the side of the road.
Euthanased by other	An animal has been euthanased by an approved person not listed as a standalone category.	Kangaroo euthanased using a firearm by an NPWS ranger or RSPCA officer.
Evaded capture	Attempts to capture the animal were not successful.	Animal was not able to be captured during rescue, e.g. a bird that flew away during rescue.
In care	An animal is still undergoing rehabilitation at the time of reporting.	Any animal that is still in care at the time of reporting.

Fate	Definition	Examples
Left and observed	Animal required no immediate intervention and was therefore left in the same condition it was found.	Checking on a fledgling chick; a member of the public has been asked to keep an eye on an animal and report back if anything changes.
Permanent care – companion (approved)	Animal has been approved by NPWS to be held as a permanent care animal for the purposes of being a companion to other animals coming into care.	Animal belonging to a social species endemic to area of operation.
Permanent care – external/community education (approved)	Animal has been approved by NPWS to be held as a permanent care animal for education purposes within the community. This requires Exhibited Animals Act approval.	
Permanent care – internal training (approved)	Animal has been approved by NPWS to be held as a permanent care animal for education purposes within the rehabilitation organisation. This requires ethics approval.	
Permanent care – research (approved)	Animal has been approved by NPWS to be held as a permanent care animal as part of an authorised research project.	
Rehomed	A seized, surrendered or domestic pet (when the owner cannot be located) is rehomed with a licensed native animal keeper, as per NPWS policy.	Children's python has been rehomed with a person licensed to keep this species.
Released	An animal that has been rehabilitated and returned to the wild.	Releasing any animal.
Relocated	A healthy and/or uninjured animal was moved from one location to another, without it requiring care.	Relocating a snake from inside a house to appropriate habitat.
Resolved by vets	When the animal was last known to be at the vet but the exact fate is not known.	Animal recorded in the system as being at the vet but the vet does not know the fate of the animal.
Returned to owner	A domestic pet has been reunited with its owner.	Owner of a pet sulphur-crested cockatoo has been located and their bird returned to them.
Reunited with parents	A young animal has been confirmed as returned and accepted by its parents.	Nestling chick has fallen from the nest and has been placed back in the nest by a rescuer. The reuniting attempt was successful and the parent birds are confirmed to be attending to the chick.

Fate	Definition	Examples
Transferred to an authorised animal park/zoo	An animal has been transferred to an animal park or zoo for treatment or permanent care after obtaining approval from the relevant persons within an organisation.	Non-releasable koala has been approved for permanent care at an animal park.
Transferred to other wildlife rehabilitation organisation	Animal has been physically transferred from the care of one wildlife rehabilitation organisation to another.	Animal and its care records (e.g. condition, weights, treatments, unique identifying number) are given to another group for continued care of the animal. This could be for specialist care, facilities required or capacity of group.