



Become a Volunteer with Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOs) FactSheet 14

and assist in the rescue, rehabilitation and
release of our native wildlife (www.wilvos.org.au)

PHONE 54416200

There are a number of ways in which you can volunteer for WILVOs. Any one of the following (and there are more) can help WILVOs to continue operating as a vital native animal welfare organisation covering the Sunshine Coast in Queensland (from Gympie to Caboolture). These include:

- o Foster caring
- o Rescuing
- o Fundraising
- o Education
- o Release
- o Newsletter
- o Grants applications
- o Manning the 24 hr hotline number

All of the above roles are vital to the successful operation of the Association and all positions operate with a strong team focus.

You don't however need to take on a job to become a 'WILVO'. You can support us as a **Friend of Wilvos** and receive our four newsletters annually and enjoy the stories about native wildlife issues and experiences.

Do I Need to Do any Training?

To rescue and foster care you need to attend an orientation and a new carers workshop covering basic rescue and caring techniques. Rescue does not mean climbing trees or rescuing possums from power lines. There are professionals that have the equipment to undertake these types of rescues. Rescue means how to

pick up an injured animal, what you will need and the first few hours of basic care.

Membership of WILVOs costs \$15.00. This covers your rescue permit, insurance, four newsletters per year and access to training workshops covering all species.

The most frequently cared for animals are birds 76% and then mammals 22%. Workshops are held throughout the year for all species. Attendance at workshops costs \$10.00. This includes course materials and refreshments. Attending workshops improves successful outcomes for native animals. Carers have to attend a minimum of 2 workshops per year.

Equipment & Food

Some equipment is necessary to carry out a rescue. Many animals will be given to you already in a carton although sometimes it is necessary to have a carry cage. A very useful cage can be purchased from WILVOs at a very reasonable price. As a member of WILVOs a certain amount of "foraging" is required as all cages and aviaries look much more natural for the inhabitants if there is fresh native foliage in them daily. Many birds require native blossoms daily as well as other special foods. Possums in particular require quantities of native foliage daily. As a foster carer you will be required to pay for the costs of food and housing out of your resources.

What is involved in foster caring?

If you make a commitment to become a foster carer/rescuer there are experienced carers who will support and guide you. Rescuing an animal does not necessarily mean you will foster care it, your experienced carer 'buddy' will assess the animals needs and make a decision. Almost all young animals need to be 'buddied' up with their own species for their best chance of survival. That may mean giving the animal you have just rescued to someone who already has that species in care, or it may mean you will foster care animals that someone else has rescued.

Having pets is not counter productive to being a foster carer. Common sense is the main ingredient here. Our aim is to release healthy, independent animals back into their habitat. It is not in the native animals best interest if, at release, it is comfortable with humans and their pets (their predators). All animals in care should be wary and instinctively flee from humans and pets. Your dog/cat might be a 'darling' but the next dog/cat your charge meets on release might not be, and days, weeks or months of care are completely wasted.

The animals welfare will always be the main priority.

What Level of Commitment am I expected to give?

You decide on the level of activity you are comfortable with. Time and equipment are the major considerations. If you have a lot of time and space in your garden for aviaries your commitment level may be quite high. Not all animals need an aviary; smaller animals may need only a cage for a few days care.

WILVOs comes under the control of Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP). There are rules that you must follow if you do want to become a foster carer. Every month you must fill in a fauna return. Non compliance will result in your rescue permit being cancelled. This information is entered into a database and assists with animal management including 'buddying' and release and ensures that WILVOs know what resources, including grants, they need to provide the services to the community such as the 24 hour hotline. This information also assists the smooth operations of the WILVOs release program. Caring for our unique wildlife is a challenging and rewarding experience. WILVOs rely on donations and grant applications to operate. Our postal address is PO Box 2555, Nambour West 4560 or [email: membership@wilvos.org.au](mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au) for enquiries. Look at our website www.wilvos.org.au for more information.

Yes, I am interested in becoming a WILVOs member. Please send me your Membership application form and information brochure. (Please note if you are not over 18 years of age, you will need your guardian to work with you as an active carer.) MEMBERSHIP IS \$15 per financial year

Please note you can also apply online at www.wilvos.org.au or email: membership@wilvos.org.au

Name: Ph: Home/Work.....Mobile.....

Address:.....

Email address:.....

Send to: Membership Secretary
Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc.:
PO Box 2555
Nambour West Qld 4560

I wish to become:
An active carer
OR
A Friend of Wilvos

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Cheque/ Money Order enclosed: Yes / No

EFT Details: Bank of Queensland **BSB:** 124-101 **Acc No:** 10297212
Remarks field: Surname NM eg SMITH NM (NM=New Member)

(Membership will not be granted until receipt of EFT funds has been verified)

Please remember that the WILVOs is a non-profit organization and we do rely upon the generosity of the public to continue our work. Donations are tax deductible.