



The Role of Your Coordinator

The main role of your coordinator is to ensure the best possible outcome for every animal that comes into care.

This is not an easy role. They need to be an educator and mentor to help Sydney Wildlife Rescue members meet the standards set by the Codes of Practice provided by the DPE. Working with rehabilitators with varying skill levels and expectations requires tact, understanding and experience.

This role can be a joy one day and difficult and frustrating the next, particularly when a coordinator's decision regarding the welfare of an animal doesn't meet the carer's expectations.

The role of your coordinator includes responsibilities such as:

Education

- Demonstrating care techniques.
- Communicating new or changed techniques, or knowledge to rehabilitators as soon as possible.
- Assisting in reviewing training materials in consultation with the Species Advisory Group (SAG) for the Training Committee.

Setting and upholding standards of care

Sydney Wildlife Rescue continually strives to implement and improve its standards of care. Your coordinator plays a large part, not only setting and improving the standards, but by helping rehabilitators keep up-to-date and meet these standards.

The coordinator's role may also include the removal of animals from rehabilitators who have failed to abide by Sydney Wildlife Rescue's standards and who display poor animal welfare standards.

Mentoring and assisting

For less-experienced carers, your coordinator's objective is to assist you to develop and further your skills in rehabilitation. The coordinators appreciate that your path to improved skills is through 'hands-on' experience, but this will always be tempered by the need to ensure that the animal's best interests come first. This may mean that, although the coordinator is prepared to allow you the opportunity to further your skills, there may be situations where it is not appropriate for a particular animal to be placed in your care. Equally, your coordinator is your first stop if you ever feel that an animal's needs exceed your present skill set.

Regardless of your experience, your coordinator is always available to help, nurture and assist you with any queries that you have, no matter how silly they may seem. If you are not sure - ask. You should never hesitate to contact your coordinator if you have a query or concern regarding your animal. Your coordinator has accepted the role with the understanding that carers will contact them frequently.

Like most of us, your coordinator may at times be unavailable when you are facing a pressing problem. That is when you should take the option of contacting a relevant species coordinator from another branch, remembering to keep your branch coordinator in the loop as soon as they become available. Coordinators will often consult each other to discuss particular problems and you should feel free to contact any of them when timely advice is needed.

Inspecting rehabilitator's facilities

The DPE species Codes of Practice have mandatory minimum housing and husbandry standards. It is essential for rehabilitators to have facilities that meet those standards.

Part of the role of the coordinator is to advise and assist you to set up or improve your facilities.

It is a condition of the [Terms of Membership](#) that SWR members "Agree to allow people authorised by the Board of Sydney Wildlife Rescue access to your facilities for wildlife care: either advice on facility set-up or animal care; or to check on the status of Sydney Wildlife Rescue animals in care."

The DPE Care Assessment Tools have been designed for wildlife rehabilitation groups to monitor their level of compliance with the Codes of Practice. Its primary purpose is to proactively help inform and guide improvements to these species standards of care and optimise post-rehabilitation outcomes.