



Rehoming wildlife

GUIDE

CONSERVATION
REGULATOR VICTORIA

Rehoming wildlife

GUIDE

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices. We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



Guidance produced by the Conservation Regulator
PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002
Telephone 136 186 conservationregulator.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.



© The State of Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change 2024

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Contents

Rehoming wildlife	3
Before rehoming	4
How to sell or give away wildlife	6
Licensing requirements when rehoming	7
Don't abandon your wildlife!	8

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on 136 186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au, or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.deeca.vic.gov.au



The Conservation Regulator

The Conservation Regulator was established in 2019 and is an independent regulator that sits within the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

The Conservation Regulator has regulatory responsibility for wildlife regulation, timber harvesting, fire prevention, use of public land and biodiversity.

Information about the Conservation Regulator, its regulatory roles, responsibilities and purpose is provided on its website.



FIND OUT MORE
conservationregulator.vic.gov.au

Rehoming wildlife

Wildlife can make interesting pets, but life changes can sometimes make it challenging to continue providing them with the care they need. Despite best intentions, wildlife owners may face challenges that make looking after their wildlife tough. This may be due to health reasons, financial hardship, growing responsibilities or other changes in personal circumstances.

Rehoming can be a difficult decision for many, and it is important to prioritise the welfare of the wildlife in your care. This guide shows the steps you should take to ensure your wildlife is looked after.



FIND OUT MORE
• vic.gov.au/wildlife-licences-and-permits • vic.gov.au/publications-conservation-regulator



Before rehoming

Explore the different support and resources that may be available to you.

Immediate support

If you are experiencing a personal crisis, support services are available in Victoria.

We also encourage you to reach out to family or friends who may be able to provide social, emotional, practical, or material support during a time of crisis. This could include supporting you to look after your pet.



In the event of an emergency, you should call 000

Telephone and online services

A range of telephone and online mental health crisis services

health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-services/telephone-and-online-services

Crisis and emergency accommodation

Assistance during a housing crisis

housing.vic.gov.au/crisis-emergency-accommodation

Family violence support services

Support for people experiencing family violence

vic.gov.au/family-violence-support-services

Emergency preparedness and recovery

Information and supports from the Victorian Government to prepare for, and recover from, emergency events

vic.gov.au/safety-and-emergencies

Discuss with those closest to you

Have an open conversation about the decision to rehome your wildlife, particularly with others in your household. If you live alone, talk things through with somebody you trust.

Investigate if anybody else in your household, or local friends and family, can provide help, even it's short-term.

Financial hardship

If you are facing financial hardship, you can:

- Reach out to a financial counsellor, who can offer free and confidential information, advice and advocacy.



FINANCIAL COUNSELLING PROVIDERS

consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-fundraising/funded-services-and-grants/financial-counselling-program-2021-24/financial-counselling-program-providers

- Explore affordable pet insurance options.
- Talk with your vet about payment plans if vet care is needed.
- Explore financial supports that may be available to you. This could be assistance through government programs or supports offered by local not-for-profit organisations, such as once-off financial assistance, food or material goods.
- If you have are experiencing hardship following an emergency, explore whether payments may be available through the **Personal Hardship Assistance Program**.



PERSONAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program





How to sell or give away wildlife

If you have made the decision to rehome your wildlife, this section will explore different options based on the type of wildlife in your care.

Ask your networks

Friends, family and wildlife associations may be able to put you in touch with someone looking for a native pet.

Advertise

Explore using community notice boards, online buy/swap/sell forums, social media or traditional advertising platforms where appropriate. If choosing to advertise, remember you must include your private wildlife licence number in the advertisement if you're required to have one.

Approach a wildlife dealer

A licensed wildlife dealer, such as a pet shop that sells wildlife, may accept your wildlife for rehoming.

Contact the Conservation Regulator

If you're still unsure about rehoming your wildlife, please reach out to us to discuss your individual circumstances by calling 136 186 or emailing.



EMAIL CONSERVATION REGULATOR
conservationregulator@delwp.vic.gov.au



Licensing requirements when rehoming

It's important to understand which wildlife species require a private wildlife licence to legally keep them as pet. You can find out more by visiting our **Private wildlife licences** page.

If your wildlife doesn't require a licence, you can sell or give it to any person who is able to provide adequate care to the animal.

If your wildlife does require a licence to keep, you can only sell or give it to another licensed person or business. It is your responsibility to check whether the person or business has a licence. You should ask to see their licence during the rehoming process. Any advertisement must include your wildlife licence number.



PRIVATE WILDLIFE LICENCES
vic.gov.au/private-wildlife-licences

All wildlife transactions for wildlife that require a licence, must be documented in your record book on the same business day. The record must include the receivers' licence number.

Further guidance about your record keeping responsibilities is available on our **Private licence obligations and record keeping** page.



PRIVATE LICENCE OBLIGATIONS AND RECORD KEEPING
vic.gov.au/private-licence-obligations-and-record-keeping

If your licence has expired or you don't have a licence, but you do have wildlife that requires a licence in your possession, you can't sell or give your wildlife away legally. Other licence holders can't receive the animal from you without a valid licence.

If you are in this situation, please reach out to us directly to discuss options for rehoming.



EMAIL CONSERVATION REGULATOR
wildlifelicencing@delwp.vic.gov.au

You must have an import and export permit to bring any wildlife into Victoria or export any wildlife out of Victoria.



IMPORT AND EXPORT PERMITS FOR WILDLIFE
vic.gov.au/import-and-export-permits-victorian-wildlife



Don't abandon your wildlife!

While your pet is a native Australian animal, it cannot be released into the wild.

Wildlife which are bred to be pets are bred in captivity, which means they are not experienced with natural behaviours such as hunting and foraging or adapted to survive in all Australian climates.

Releasing domesticated wildlife is likely to cause significant suffering or death to the animal, and negatively impact local flora and fauna populations.

Releasing wildlife can also introduce new diseases which can harm wild populations, including threatened species in the area.



conservationregulator.vic.gov.au