

Wildcare has 6 mobile release trailers which are loaned to Wildcare licensed carers to facilitate the soft release of wildlife back to their natural habitat.

Outlined below are protocols which must be followed to comply with insurance and health and safety obligations.

1. Permitted Use

- 1.1 The release trailers are only to be used for the purpose of releasing rehabilitated native wildlife.
- 1.2 The release trailers are not to be used for non-native, domestic animals or livestock under any circumstances.
- 1.3 The trailers are not to be used as a replacement for medium to long term rehabilitation enclosures. They are to be used as soft-release enclosures only.
- 1.4 The release trailers are not to be used to move anything other than the aviary affixed to it. They are not to be used as a standard trailer for the moving of equipment, furniture etc.

2. Person Responsible

- 2.1. Each release trailer will be recorded in the Wildcare Asset Register and allocated to a specific Wildcare member, which will generally be a Species Coordinator or other key volunteer. For the purpose of this protocol, they shall be referred to as the Trailer Coordinator. It will be the Trailer Coordinator's responsibility to ensure compliance with these protocols and to manage the use of the individual trailer assigned to them.

Each Trailer Coordinator must keep a register of where the trailer is at all times including:

- The resident/carer who currently has possession of the trailer including their name, address and contact telephone number
 - The address where the trailer is located
 - The Wildcare carer responsible for the animals being housed in the release trailer
 - Ensuring that any person towing the trailer holds a current Drivers Licence.
 - Ensuring that the vehicle towing the trailer is registered
- 2.2. Each Trailer Coordinator must ensure that:
 - The trailer remains in good condition and repair.
 - Any required repairs are reported to the Wildcare Management Committee promptly and they are undertaken prior to being used again.
 - A spare copy of the keys are held in a secure location away (not with the trailer).
 - 2.3. Each Trailer Coordinator shall ensure that all persons taking possession of and using the trailer, will have read these protocols and signed a copy to acknowledge their agreement that they will abide by these conditions.
 - 2.4. Requests for use of the release trailers must be organised with the appropriate Trailer Coordinator.

3. Towing the Release Trailer

- 3.1 Towing of the release trailer must only be done by a vehicle with a suitable towing capacity whilst driven by a current Wildcare member or trusted friend or family member, who has experience with towing trailers.
- 3.2 The driver of the vehicle must hold a valid Open Class Drivers Licence and be at least 25 years of age.
- 3.3 The vehicle must be registered, insured and be in a roadworthy state.
- 3.4 Details pertaining to the vehicle and driver must be checked by the relevant Trailer Coordinator and a record maintained.
- 3.5 Prior to towing, both the driver of the vehicle and the Wildcare carer using it for their animals, must inspect the trailer to ensure that it is in good working order and there are no loose parts (wire, metal sheeting etc) that could come lose during transit.
- 3.6 The driver must ensure that all safety chains/pins are in place and that all lights (brakes, indicators) are working correctly prior to towing.
- 3.7 The release trailers must never be towed whilst animals are in the aviary.

4. Placing Release Trailer on site

- 4.1 The preferred use of the release trailer will involve placing the trailer on a private property where it can be monitored by the property owner/resident.
- 4.2 The release trailers must be placed in such a manner that will prevent theft, vandalism or accidental damage.
- 4.3 The release trailers must not be placed on private property without permission of the property owner.
- 4.4 The release trailer must not be placed on public (State, Federal or Local) land without the written consent of the legal owner of the property (e.g. Local Council, State Government).
- 4.5 Once positioned, the trailer must remain secured and locked at all times to prevent theft. A trailer lock/wheel clamp is included with each trailer and they must be used regardless of where the trailer is located and even when the risk of theft is considered low.
- 4.6 Once animals are placed into the release trailer, the trailer door should be locked with a keyed or combination padlock to prevent malicious tampering and release of the animals.
- 4.7 It is the Wildcare carers sole responsibility to ensure that all wildlife placed into the release trailer are appropriately cared for. Delegating some responsibility to the property owners does not negate their responsibility for the well-being of the animals being released.
- 4.8 The trailer must be collected promptly after use and returned to its usual storage location without delay.
- 4.9 Where the release property is subject to potential natural disaster (such as high and immediate bushfire threat, flooding etc):
 - the Wildcare carer shall organise for the wildlife to be collected promptly (provided it is safe to do so) and alternative housing arrangements sought for them until the danger passes.
 - The release trailer should be collected promptly (provided it is safe to do so) and it should be stored at an alternative, safe location until the danger passes.

5. Cleaning

- 5.1 Once the release trailer is finished being used, it is the Wildcare carers responsibility to ensure that the trailer is cleaned and disinfected.
- 5.2 The Wildcare carer must inspect the trailer and all fixtures (including branches, food dishes etc) and ensure that they are in good condition. If any items need replacing or repair, the Wildcare carer should report those issues to the appropriate Trailer Coordinator.

6. Storage when not in use

- 6.1 When not in use, the release trailer must be parked in a suitable location pending re-allocation. The following guidelines must be adhered to when storing the trailer:
- The trailer must be placed in a location to prevent damage from extreme weather including storms and flooding. It should be positioned away from large trees which may have branches fall and damage the aviary.
 - It is preferred that the trailer be stored in a location where it is not visible from the road.
 - The release trailer must be kept locked and secured at all times when not being towed with the trailer lock/wheel clamp. There are no exceptions to this requirement.
- 6.2 Where the trailer is stored at a Wildcare member's property and the member will be away for an extended period of time, they must ensure that arrangements are made with an appropriate Coordinator to either move the trailer to another location pending their return, or ensuring that access to the release trailer is available.