

Get started!

Become a Volunteer Wildlife CARER

What is a Wildlife Rehabilitator/Carer?

- Wildlife carers care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in their own home.
- Most wildlife in South-east Queensland are fostered out to wildlife carers once they have undergone a thorough veterinary assessment at a wildlife hospital. Some animals, such as orphans, may be placed directly with a wildlife carer following their rescue by a Wildlife Rescuer.
- The aim of being a wildlife carer is to care for, and then release, healthy rehabilitated wildlife back to the wild.

What do you need?

- **A reliable vehicle** is a necessity when caring for wildlife in order to:
 - collect wildlife from a vet clinic or wildlife hospital, and transport them to a vet for ongoing veterinary treatment
 - collect fresh, native vegetation (browse, native flowers and fruit) to feed animals in care and provide enrichment
 - organise the release of wildlife back to their rescue location
- **Rehabilitation facilities and enclosures** – the facilities required vary significantly depending upon the species you are caring for, as well as the stage of development of the individual animals in your care. An overview of the facilities required is included in the Wildcare Species Fact Sheets which can be found on our website at <https://wildcare.org.au/carers-resources/>
- **Miscellaneous equipment and supplies:**
 - Second-hand linen such as towels, pillowcases, handtowels, bathmats etc
 - Feeding equipment – formula, food and water bowls, syringes, teats etc (depending upon the species)
 - Laundry and cleaning facilities – for washing linen and cleaning/sterilising equipment and food/water containers
 - Wildcare training manuals and resources – provided free to Wildcare members at the respective workshops

How do I get started?

- **Become a Wildcare member** – join online at <https://wildcare.org.au/help-us/join/>
- **Register and attend an Orientation / Rescue and First Aid for Wildlife training workshop** (all training workshops are free for Wildcare members) – current Education Calendar is available at <https://wildcare.org.au/education-training/>. Attending this introductory workshop is compulsory to ensure you are covered by Wildcare's insurance.
- **Get your basic supplies ready** – refer to your manuals from the Rescue and First Aid for Wildlife workshop, and the workshop(s) of the specific species you wish to care for
- **Become a Wildlife Rescuer** – this is a great way to get experience while you undertake your training and get your equipment and facilities together. Remember: there are no animals to care for at home if they are not rescued in the first instance.
- **Attend training workshops** – these are free to attend for all Wildcare members. Refer to the last page of the Education Calendar for a chart showing requisite workshops for each species. The workshops will provide specific information on what's involved with caring for various species and will allow you to meet and network with the Species Coordinators and experienced wildlife carers.

Then what?

- When you are ready to start caring for wildlife at home, submit the online form for [Permit Application \(General Species\)](#). When submitting the form, please make sure that you have:
 - Completed the necessary training for the species you wish to care for (refer to the last page of the Education Calendar for a chart showing requisite workshops for each species).
 - Already have (or are getting) the necessary equipment/facilities together for that species – you must specify these fully on the form.
- When your permit authorisation has been approved, make contact with the relevant Species Coordinator in your region and discuss with them your individual circumstances (e.g. work, family, home) so they can work with you to place species or individual animals which will best suit your individual circumstances. Wildlife are placed into care through the Species Coordinators so keep in close contact with them – they are there to help you get started on your wildlife caring journey.
- Continue to attend training workshops so you keep up to date with current best practices.
- Get involved and network with other Wildcare members – join the Wildcare members-only Facebook groups:
[Wildcare Community Facebook Group](#)
[Wildcare Wildlife Transport Facebook Group](#)
- Make sure you ask for help if you have any questions or aren't sure about anything.