

Information You Need To Know

Protected Animals Rescue Permit

as per Schedule 1 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019*

The Protected Animals Rescue Permit, as set out in Schedule 1 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019*, is granted pursuant to sections 53 and 55 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (the Act) and is subject to the Act and the Regulations and Proclamations made under the Act.

The permit entitles the holder to have possession or control of non-fertile hard-shelled eggs of protected animals.

Under the Act, a protected animal is:

- a) any mammal, bird or reptile indigenous to Australia; or
- b) any migratory mammal, bird or reptile that periodically or occasionally migrates to, and lives in, Australia; or
- c) any animal of a species referred to in Schedule 7, 8 or 9; or
- d) any animal of a species declared by regulation to be a species of protected animals, but is not any of the animals referred to in Schedule 10 of the Act or any animals declared by regulation to be unprotected.

In addition to the limitations, restrictions and conditions included in the permit, the permit holder must also comply with the legislative and regulatory provisions which relate to the permit. A summary of the relevant provisions relating to the Specialist Permit to Keep and Sell Protected Animals (Fauna Dealer) (Class 2), as described in Schedule 1 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019*, is set out below. The legislation and regulations can be viewed in their entirety at www.legislation.sa.gov.au

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

Permit to Take Protected Animals (section 53) – rescue of wildlife

As it is a criminal offence under section 51 of the Act to take a protected animal or the eggs of a protected animal, a permit granted under section 53 of the Act is required to take (rescue) protected animals or the eggs of protected animal from the wild if the Minister considers the action proper and not inconsistent with the objectives of the Act.

A section 53 permit may not authorise the sale of protected animals and the eggs of protected animals taken pursuant to the permit.

The permit period is specified in the permit and cannot exceed 12 months duration.

The Minister may at any time revoke the permit.

A report must be completed within 14 days of permit expiry or revocation of the permit. The form of the report is set out in Schedule 2 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019* and requires information on the number of protected animals or the eggs of protected animals of each species taken (rescued), as set out in the permit.

Restriction on release of protected animals (section 55)

You must not release a protected animal or an animal of a species listed in Schedule 10 of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019* from captivity unless you are authorised to do so by a permit granted under section 55 of the Act.

Illegal possession of animals etc (section 60)

Under section 60 of the Act, you must not have in your possession or control an animal, the carcass of an animal or an egg, that has been illegally taken or acquired. This includes animals illegally taken or acquired outside of South Australia.

Permits (section 69(3))

A permit granted under the Act is subject to the limitations, restrictions and conditions included in the permit. If you fail to comply with any limitation, restriction or condition of your permit then your permit can be revoked.

Obligation to produce permit (section 70)

If you are requested by a warden (appointed under the Act) to produce your permit for inspection then you must do so as soon as practicable after the request was made. Failure to comply with this request is a criminal offence.

Failure to comply (section 70A)

If you, or a person acting with your authority, contravenes or fails to comply with a limitation, restriction, condition or provision of your permit then you are guilty of an offence.

False or misleading statement (section 72)

It is a criminal offence to make, or cause to be made, a false or misleading statement in an application, return or other document required under the Act.

Additional penalty (section 74)

If you are convicted of an offence against the Act involving any unlawful act in relation to animals and the court is satisfied that more than one animal was involved in the offence, the court must impose a fine, based on the number of animals involved in the commission of the offence. This fine is in addition to the penalty that may be imposed under the relevant section of the Act the offence was committed against.

Important note: a breach of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* may incur an expiation fee. You may also be liable to criminal prosecution, and if found guilty of an offence, convicted and fined. The maximum penalties and expiation fees which may be imposed for an offence against the Act, are provided in the relevant section of the Act which can be viewed at www.legislation.sa.gov.au

National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019

Report to be provided following expiry or revocation of section 53 permit (regulation 6)

Under section 53 of the Act, when your permit expires or is revoked a report must to be delivered to Minister which states the number of animals of each species taken pursuant to the permit and the number of eggs of any protected animal taken pursuant to the permit. The report required by section 53 is required to be in the form prescribed in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Regulations and is provided to you upon the granting of the permit.

Returns to be provided for purposes of section 55 permit or section 53 and 55 permit (regulation 12)

If you have been granted a permit under section 55 of the Act, you must provide the Director with a return within 14 days after the release of the animal pursuant to the Director. The return must be in the manner and form approved by the Director.

In addition to the report required under section 53(4) of the Act you must provide the Director with a return within 14 days of the expiry or revocation of the permit (or earlier if specified in the permit). The return must be in the manner and form approved by the Director.

The following information must be provided in the return;

- (a) the number of animals released under the permit;
- (b) the species of each animal released under the permit (and, if more than 1 animal has been released, the number of animals of each species);
- (c) the date, time and exact location of the release of each animal;
- (d) such other information in relation to a release as the Director may require.

Copies of returns to be retained in a safe place (regulation 15)

You need to keep copies of your returns in a safe place at the place at which you keep the rescued animals.

Notification of loss of record books or copies of returns (regulation 17)

If you lose your return or copy of your return you must notify the Fauna Permits Unit within 7 days after becoming aware of the loss or damage.

Record books and copies of returns to be produced for inspection at request of warden (regulation 18)

You (or a person who has custody or control of your returns as agent) must, if requested by a warden, produce the copy (or copies) for inspection by the warden.

Notification of change of address or name (regulation 20)

If you change your address or name during the period that your permit remains in force you must, within 14 days after changing your address or name—

- (a) notify the Director in writing of the change; and
- (b) provide documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the Director of the new address or change of name.

Exemption from Division (regulation 21)

The Director may exempt a person from compliance with any provision of Division 1 of the Wildlife Regulations (Records, returns, reports etc) other than regulation 6, 7 or 20.

Director to supply record books, returns etc (regulation 22)

The Director must supply you with the individual return form.

Record books, return books and returns in electronic form (regulation 23)

The Fauna Permits Unit supplies you with the individual return form. A record book, return book or return includes a reference to the book or return in an electronic form.

Form of applications, notifications etc (regulation 24)

If you make an application to the Director for an approval, authorisation or exemption, or a waiver, under the regulations then it must be made in the manner and form approved by the Director and include the information required by the Director.

Where, under the regulations, you are required to give notice or provide information to the Director then this must be provided in writing and signed by you.

Requirement for signature (regulation 25)

Where you are required to sign a document (e.g. record, return, notification, etc) that is provided in electronic form by the Director then the requirement to sign will be satisfied if an electronic signature (or other method approved by the Director) is used to identify you as the person providing the document.

Approvals, exemptions etc by Director and wardens (regulation 26)

If a warden grants you an approval subject to a limitation, restriction or condition then you (or a person acting in the employment or with your authority) must not contravene or fail to comply with the limitation, restriction or condition.

If you are granted a permission or other authority by the Director, it is an offence under section 70A(1) of the Act if you (or a person acting in the employment or with the authority of the holder) fail to comply with any limitation, restriction, condition or provision of that permission or other authority.

Prevention of escape and facilitation of inspection of protected animals (regulation 37)

You must keep your protected animal(s) in a cage or enclosure that is adequate in size and is constructed, located and maintained so as to prevent the animal from escaping, enable the cage or enclosure to be secured against unauthorised access and to facilitate the inspection of the animal by a warden under the Act. You must also ensure that the cage or enclosure in which an animal that is dangerous or constitutes a biological hazard is kept is securely locked or otherwise secured to prevent unauthorised access, except when you are present.

Note- It is an offence under section 13 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* for a person to ill-treat an animal. Under that section, ill treatment includes intentionally, unreasonably or recklessly causing the animal unnecessary harm and, in the case of the owner of the animal, includes failing to provide it with appropriate and adequate food, water, living conditions or exercise.

Construction and labelling of containers for transportation of protected animals, carcasses or eggs (regulation 39)

If you transport a protected animal or egg of a protected animal from one location to another location then the container, cage or package you use must be designed, constructed and maintained to withstand the transportation process.

Transport container, cage or package	Requirement
For an egg of a protected animal	The container, cage or package must <ul style="list-style-type: none">• protect the egg against damage or deterioration; and• resist unauthorised interference with the egg.
For a carcass or egg	The container, cage or package must <ul style="list-style-type: none">• protect the carcass or egg against damage or deterioration; and• resist unauthorised interference with the carcass or egg.

There is also a requirement to label the transport container, cage or package with information.

Transport of protected animals, carcasses or eggs	Label requirement
Transported by the permit holder or a person authorised by the permit holder (other than a third party carrier)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the number of the permit; and• such other information as the Director may require.

Transported by a third party carrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the name and residential or business address of the owner of the animal; and if the owner is the permit holder—the number of the permit; and the common name of the type of animal that is being transported and the number of such animals; and such other information as the Director may require.
If the animal is dangerous, or if the animal constitutes a biological hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the name and residential or business address of the owner of the animal; and if the owner is the permit holder—the number of the permit; and the common name of the type of animal that is being transported and the number of such animals; a statement that the animal is dangerous or constitutes a biological hazard; and such other information as the Director may require.

The label information must be clearly displayed on the outside of the cage, container or package (whether by means of a securely attached label or otherwise) and in a position and manner that allows it to easily be read.

If the egg of a protected animal is transported to a destination outside of the State of South Australia then the Export Permit (or copy) meets the requirements of a label.

Permit not to be used by another (regulation 45)

You must not allow your permit to be used by any other person.

Important note: a breach of the *National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019* may incur an expiation fee of \$160 or maximum penalty of \$1250.

Obligations under other legislation

The care of all animals must comply with the *Animal Welfare Act 1985*.

Where rehabilitation or euthanasia of protected animals involves the use of a controlled substance (e.g. a prescribed drug(s)) the following legislation also applies;

Animal Welfare Act 1985 and regulations

Controlled Substances Act 1984 and regulations

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