

Keeping Protected Animals in South Australia



'Keeping our future alive'



Department
for Environment
and Heritage

KEEPING PROTECTED ANIMALS

This brochure is a guide to the permit system for keeping and selling protected native animals and should be read in conjunction with the Species List.

THE PERMIT SYSTEM

In South Australia most native animals are protected under the terms of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. A permit system regulates the keeping and selling of native species of mammals, birds, and reptiles.

The wildlife permit system enables people to keep and sell native animals whilst protecting naturally occurring populations from illegal exploitation. These permits apply only to animals already in captivity and do not allow animals to be taken from their natural habitats.

Permit holders are required to keep accurate and up-to-date records for each species of protected animal in their possession. The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) supplies each permit-holder with a record book for this purpose. Details of all transactions (that is, births, deaths, purchases and sales) must be included in the record book, and permit-holders are required to submit returns detailing their transactions in

protected animals. Holders of a Basic Permit submit one return annually, whilst holders of a Specialist Permit submit returns every six months.

Persons keeping native animals are encouraged to consider joining appropriate organisations to further their knowledge and develop skills in the care and breeding of animals. Names and addresses of three organisations are shown on the back panel.

PERMITS

With the exception of those species classed as either unprotected or exempt (see accompanying Species List), it is necessary to have a permit to keep and sell all other varieties of native mammals, birds, and reptiles.

To determine the class of permit you require check the Species List. If a species is not listed as Unprotected, Exempt or Basic then it falls into the Specialist Permit category. If animals from both the Basic and Specialist permit lists are to be kept then a Specialist Permit will be required.

Sales of protected animals held on a Basic or Specialist permit are restricted to those birds, mammals and reptiles that have been bred by the permit-holder, or in the possession of the permit-holder for a minimum of six months prior to sale.

All permits must be renewed by 30th June each year. Renewal forms are posted to permit holders prior to that date.

Basic Permit

This permit applies to those species considered to be fairly abundant and which have relatively simple husbandry needs. The permit entitles the holder to buy, keep and sell protected animals described on the Basic Permit Species list. There is no restriction on the number of individual animals or the number of species which can be held under this permit. If only a single animal from this list is to be kept then no permit is required. However, a permit is required if that single animal is to be sold or given away.

The Basic Permit requires the holder to keep each native animal in his/her care for a period of at least six months. If an animal is to be sold or given away before six months has expired then the holder is required to obtain a Fauna Dealer's Permit.

Holders of a Basic Permit are required to submit a return by 30 June each year. The return must detail all stock movements of the previous financial year, and is to be submitted on a form provided by DEH.

Specialist Permit

A Specialist Permit is required if you intend to keep any species of protected native animal that is not listed in the Unprotected, Exempt or Basic categories. Specialist permits will be endorsed for particular groupings of animals (for example, insectivorous birds, wombats, venomous snakes) and holders of a Specialist Permit can keep and sell only those species described in the endorsement. Special conditions may also apply to each endorsement. These conditions may relate to the care or housing of the animals and/or the experience of the permit-holder.

Sales of protected animals held on a Specialist permit are restricted to those birds, mammals and reptiles that have been bred by the permit-holder, or in the possession of the permit-holder for a minimum of six months prior to sale.

The holder of a Specialist Permit is also entitled to buy, keep and sell any species on the Basic Permit list.

Holders of a Specialist Permit must submit returns by 28 February and 30 June detailing stock transactions of the preceding six months.

Rescue Permit

Permits to rescue protected animals that have been orphaned or injured, or which are otherwise unable to care for themselves, may be provided in genuine circumstances. A Rescue Permit is required for each individual animal rescued. There is no charge for a Rescue Permit.

Rescue permits are subject to special conditions. The disposal of rescued animals is not permitted without the prior written approval of the Director, NPWSA.

Anyone who rescues a protected animal is advised to seek further information from the nearest DEH office.

ANIMALS WHICH MAY BE KEPT WITHOUT A PERMIT

Some native animals can be kept and sold without a permit. Unless information to the contrary appears within the accompanying lists of

Unprotected and Exempt animals, there are no restrictions on the keeping and trading of these species.

Exempt Species

There are no restrictions on the keeping and sale of exempt species, but animals

must be lawfully obtained, e.g. captive bred or purchased from a reputable pet shop.

Unprotected Species

There are no restrictions on the keeping and selling of these species.

In order to keep dingoes you may require a permit from the Animal and Plant Control Commission.

TRADING IN NATIVE ANIMALS

People who wish to sell native animals as a business, or who wish to sell animals held for less than the statutory six months, will require a Fauna Dealer's Permit and should contact the **Fauna Permits Unit** of DEH on (08) 8124 4972 for more information.



IMPORT AND EXPORT OF ANIMALS

Appropriate permits are required before any protected animals are brought into or taken out of South Australia. Export permits are required prior to taking protected species (including exempt species) out of South Australia. Each time one or more protected animals are brought into the State an import permit is required. Applications for import or export permits can be faxed or posted to the Resource Protection Section in Adelaide or to regional DEH offices in Berri, Port Lincoln, Port Augusta and Mount Gambier.

These permits are free.

TAKING ANIMALS FROM THE WILD

It is an offence to take any species of protected animal (including exempt species) from the wild without an appropriate permit. Penalties of up to \$10 000 may be incurred for taking or being in illegal possession of protected animals. The onus remains for any person keeping protected animals to take reasonable measures to ensure that animals purchased have not been taken illegally from the wild.

SALE OF JUVENILE BIRDS

A native bird must not be sold if it is too young to fly or to feed itself.

CROSS BREEDING

It is an offence to cross breed a protected animal with any other species or sub-species of animal.

RELEASE OF PROTECTED ANIMALS

Protected native animals cannot be released without the prior approval of the Director, NPWSA.

RECORD BOOKS

Permit holders are reminded that the following regulations apply to their record books.

- Record books must be kept up to date at all times.
- Record and Return books must be kept at the premises where protected animals are kept, and be available for inspection by a warden at all times.

A surcharge will be made for replacement Record and Return books where these have been either lost or destroyed.



Further Information

Enquiries relating to the permit system for keeping and selling native animals can be made to the **Fauna Permits Unit**, DEH on phone (08) 8124 4972, fax (08) 8124 4939, or by visiting our web site at www.wildlifepermits.sa.gov.au.
Postal address,
Department for Environment and Heritage,
GPO Box 1782, Adelaide 5001,
South Australia.

Further information on keeping native animals can be obtained from the following groups.

AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
PO Box 3234
Rundle Mall
Adelaide 5000

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERPETOLOGY GROUP
C/- South Australian Museum
North Terrace
Adelaide 5000

MARSUPIAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC
GPO Box 2462
Adelaide 5001
Ph (08) 8374 1783

Regional Offices

North Region

9 MacKay St
Port Augusta 5700
Ph (08) 8648 5300
Fax (08) 8648 5301

Murraylands Region

28 Vaughan Tce
Berri 5343
Ph (08) 8595 2111
Fax (08) 8595 2110

South East Region

11 Helen St
Mount Gambier 5290
Ph (08) 8735 1111
Fax (08) 8735 1110