

Standard Operating Procedure

SC26-02 SHORT-TERM JOEY INTERVENTION PROCEDURES (APRIL 2026)

Animal welfare is the responsibility of all personnel involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

Personnel involved in an Animal Ethics Committee approved project should read and understand their obligations under the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*.

Version 1.4

April 2026



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Phone: (08) 9219 9000

www.dbca.wa.gov.au

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This document was prepared by Species and Communities Program, Biodiversity and Conservation Science, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Questions regarding the use of this material should be directed to:

Species and Communities Program
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Email: animalethics@dbca.wa.gov.au

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* Previously called Care of Evicted Pouch Young, Care of Ejected Pouch Young

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Approved by the DBCA Animal Ethics Committee:



Dr Jacqui Richards
Chairperson, Animal Ethics Committee
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

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1 Acknowledgements

This standard operating procedure was originally developed by Christine Freegard and Vanessa Richter, with contributions from Peter Orell, Peter Mawson and Stephanie Hill.

2 Purpose

Ejecting pouch young is common in some members of the Macropodidae, Potoroidae and Peramelidae families (particularly woylies *Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*, boodies *Bettongia lesueur*, and quenda *Isoodon fusciventer*).

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) details protocols for four possible courses of action in response to a pouch young ejected from its mother's pouch: taping, soft release, retention and euthanasia. Additionally, the SOP includes guidance for managing scenarios where a dependent young-at-heel has been trapped with its mother.

3 Scope

This SOP has been written specifically for scientific and education purposes, and approved by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Animal Ethics Committee (AEC). However, this SOP may also be appropriate for other situations.

This SOP applies to all fauna survey and monitoring activities undertaken across Western Australia by DBCA (hereafter department) personnel. It may also be used to guide fauna related activities undertaken by Natural Resource Management groups, consultants, researchers and any other individuals or organisations. All department personnel involved in fauna research and management should be familiar with the content of this document.

This SOP complements the *Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (The Code). The Code provides the ethical framework and governing principles to guide decisions and actions of all those involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes and should be referred to for all AEC approved projects. A copy of the code may be viewed by visiting the National Health and Medical Research Council website (<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-care-and-use-animals-scientific-purposes>).

4 Animal Welfare Considerations

Personnel must consider, address and plan for the range of welfare impacts that may be encountered when joeys are separated from their mothers during trapping events. Strategies to reduce impacts should be identified during the planning stage to ensure that they can be readily implemented during animal handling, and contingencies for managing welfare issues have been identified. Ensure that all personnel involved in the project are aware of the range of issues that they may encounter, the options that are available to reduce impacts and improve animal welfare, and the process to manage adverse events.

Department projects involving animal handling will require approval from the department's Animal Ethics Committee. Key animal welfare considerations when interacting with species that eject their young include the management of dependent young encountered during trapping. Joeys that are ejected, trapped with the mother, or found nearby as young-at-heel should not be released separately, as separation increases the risk of injury, abandonment

and other welfare outcomes. Further welfare considerations relevant to trapping and handling are outlined in the following sections.

4.1 Injury and unexpected deaths

If adverse events including injury, unexpected deaths or unplanned requirement for euthanasia occur then it is essential to consider the possible causes and take action to prevent further issues. Adhering to the guidance in this SOP will assist in minimising the likelihood of adverse events. For projects approved by the department's AEC, adverse events must be reported in writing to the AEC Executive Officer as soon as possible after the event by completing an *Adverse Event Form*. Guidance on first aid for animals and field euthanasia procedures are described in the department SOPs *First Aid for Animals* and *Euthanasia of Animals Under Field Conditions*. Where infectious disease is suspected, refer to the department SOP *Managing Disease Risk and Biosecurity in Wildlife Management* for further guidance.

4.2 Level of impact

The intention of this procedure is to achieve the best welfare outcome for animals involved. Inappropriate care of joeys can have a negative impact on the welfare of animals (e.g. if the young develop hypothermia, dehydration etc.). Euthanasia is a possible end point of this procedure if considered the best welfare outcome for the animals involved.

5 Procedure Outline

5.1 Equipment

If undertaking a project where the ejection of pouch young is likely, at least one 'joey kit' should be kept in a location readily accessible to all personnel/trapping teams. The number of joey kits carried should be proportional to the expected risk and dependent on logistical requirements. The joey kit should comprise the following:

- Well-ventilated box with a lid.
- Heat pack/pad or hot-water-bottle and thermos of hot water.
- Thermometer.
- Appropriate makeshift pouches (e.g. knitted wool outer with a removable cotton inner lining).

Personnel should carry makeshift pouches when checking traps so that they are readily accessible if needed.

5.2 What to do immediately after the pouch young is ejected

The most common time for pouch young to be ejected is when the mother becomes aware of someone approaching the trap. Occasionally young are ejected whilst inside a handling bag or upon release. It is important to be efficient at separating the mother and young, however it is also important to take care not to rush as this can lead to the mother escaping and leaving an orphan. Place each in a separate bag as soon as possible to reduce the chance of the young being injured.

Minimise direct handling of joeys with cold hands to reduce heat loss. Ejected young should be immediately placed in a makeshift pouch somewhere warm. This is usually inside someone's clothing, preferably against skin for maximum heat transfer. Human body temperature is too cool for pouch young, so this is only a temporary solution. The joey and its makeshift pouch should be transferred to a heat pack/pad or hot water bottle inside appropriate containment until it is reunited with its mother, delivered to a licenced wildlife rehabilitator or euthanased.

ANIMAL WELFARE: Records need to be kept on ejected pouch young, their care and fate for annual reporting requirements of projects approved by the department's Animal Ethics Committee.

5.3 Taping in pouch young

Taping is the preferred option for ejected pouch young and should be used wherever possible.

5.3.1 When to tape

Tape in small pouch young that have been ejected or are likely to be ejected when their mother is released. Only tape in those pouch young that are small enough to fit back into the pouch such that the opening of the pouch can be completely closed. Hairless or lightly furred pouch young are never too large to reinsert into their mother's pouch (and should never be left with the mother out of the pouch). Generally, woylies smaller than 200 g (including some that are fully haired, with eyes open) should be taped in (pouch young up to 260 g have been successfully taped in and released).

Before inserting larger joeys, check the pouch for any hairless infants. If there are any infants present in the pouch, the larger joey (young-at-heel) has already permanently emerged from the pouch (and should not be taped in) but probably is still dependent on the mother and therefore should be 'bagged' for soft release.

5.3.2 How to tape

- (a) Pouch young insertion is a lot easier when the mother is not struggling and not completely stretched out. Her back should be slightly curved, and legs not completely stretched back. At least two people are required: one to hold the mother and the other to insert the pouch young. Towels or handling sacks may be used to assist with safely restraining the mother and reducing movement during pouch young insertion.
- (b) Open the pouch and then place the pouch young in the pouch opening, allowing it to pull itself in while guiding it into position: head first, upside down with its back to its mother's stomach, pouch lifted out and forward. Ensure the pouch lining is not pulled out when opening as this reduces the size of the pouch available for the joey to climb back into.
- (c) Once the pouch young is in the pouch it should be allowed to settle and rest with its side flush against the body wall of the mother. Hind legs and tail should be inside the pouch and not protruding through the pouch opening.

ANIMAL WELFARE: Be gentle when tucking tails and legs into the pouch; they are fragile.

- (d) Use a piece of Fixomull® (or similar stretchy, breathable, adhesive surgical tape) to close the mouth of the pouch. Position the tape so that its long edge runs horizontally across the pouch opening, from one side of the mother to the other. Keep the tape clear of the

cloaca and place it no higher than the lower edge of the mother's rib cage (Figure 1). Alternative brands may be used; however, thick or non-breathable strapping tapes should not be used. These tapes do not allow adequate ventilation and may compromise the welfare of the mother and joey.

Ensure the pouch opening is completely closed and that no part of the joey's body is exposed to the adhesive tape. Ensure the hind legs and their ranges of movement are not impeded.

Take particular care in positioning tape on bandicoots because the pouch opening and cloaca are close together. A 'V' shape may be cut out of one end of the tape to assist placing the tape with sufficient adherence without blocking the cloaca.

- (e) Massage the tape into the fur by gently pinching and rolling the tape and fur/skin between fingers to ensure good adhesion. Ensure the tape is not stuck to any part of the handling bag.
- (f) If the first piece of tape is narrow and there is some doubt about the tape holding (e.g. if the pouch young is large), another piece of tape may be placed across the belly over the top of the existing tape covering the pouch opening.
- (g) The tape should extend no further than the sides of the animal (i.e. not onto the back).
- (h) Extending the tape beyond the mother's sides may cause the tape to remain attached to the mother longer than is desirable, threatening the survival of the joey and potentially leading to debilitation, and possibly death, of the mother.
- (i) Be patient and take the time to position the pouch young and secure the tape correctly.



Figure 1: A woylie joey taped into its mother's pouch. The arrow (red) indicates the location of the cloaca, and the line shows the orientation of the pouch opening. Photo: Christine Freegard/DBCA.

5.4 Releasing mother and joey

The options for release of mother and joey are to either release immediately after taping the joey in, or to conduct a soft release. Immediate releases are suitable for instances when the mother has been calm and cooperative, and generally, when pouch young are small (unfurred, eyes closed).

5.4.1 Immediate release

- (a) When releasing the mother with a taped pouch, plan and ensure an exit from the handling bag which is clear of ALL obstructions including field kits, people, logs and trees within at least 2 metres. Ensure all is quiet and people are behind the release point. If releasing in the dark, red light is preferred to avoid startling the mother.
- (b) With the mother still in the handling bag, place her feet on the ground before carefully removing the bag. This will help ensure that the mother does not kick or scratch the tape off during release or before she has found refuge.
- (c) Alternatively, place the bag on the ground and allow the animal to settle down close to the mouth of the bag in a way that will allow a clean release, and then quietly fold the bag off the eyes of the animal. Allow the animal to leave on its own terms and in its own time. **CAUTION:** If the mother has struggled in the bag after you have released your grip she may have kicked the tape off. Check and re-tape if necessary.
- (d) Observe the animal as it moves away to make sure that the tape stays on. Keep quiet and listen out for the calls (a hissing noise) of an ejected pouch young. If in doubt trace the path of the mother and look and listen for abandoned young. If the mother has ejected the pouch young and the pouch young is found, refer to Section 5.5.
- (e) Check that there is no pouch young in the bag. If the pouch young is left in the bag, refer to Section 5.5.

5.4.2 Soft release

A soft release is when the mother and joey (whether or not it is taped in) are left in an untied bag in a sheltered location, allowing them to leave the bag on their own terms. This bag should be heavy weight with a dense weave (e.g. dark cotton drill or fleece) and should ideally be the bag the mother is initially restrained in after she has exited the trap. If a change of handling bag is required for soft release this should be done immediately at the start of processing and before the joey is reunited with the mother. Transferring an animal from one bag to another prior to soft release is likely to cause stress and increase the risk of the mother kicking the tape off or leaving without her joey.

Soft release should be considered if the pouch young is particularly large, attempts to return the pouch young to the pouch have not succeeded, or if a young-at-heel is still present and a new born infant is also present in the pouch. Soft release should also be considered if the pouch young has been successfully taped in, but the mother is highly stressed/agitated.

If the pouch young is unfurred and the initial attempt to reinsert has failed, it will be necessary to leave the mother in the bag in a quiet and secure place to settle down and then re-attempt to reinsert the pouch young into the pouch rather than conduct a soft release.

Note: When conducting a soft release, personnel MUST be able to return to the release site the next day to check that the bag has been vacated.

- (a) Find a well contained and sheltered position to leave the animals. Any sheltered depressions are ideal (e.g. under logs, rocky outcrops, dense bushes or in burnt out stumps). Ensure it is a suitable distance from any road that may have vehicle use to avoid disturbance of the animals. Avoid locations adjacent to active kangaroo pads, ant nests or other potential disturbances or welfare risks. Consider how the shade will move during

the day to ensure that the position will not be exposed to direct sunlight. Some natural shelter from rainfall is desirable.

- (b) Mark the location with flagging tape and label the tape with the day's date. Ensure this mark is visible from the reference point/road, or in dense bushland, using flagging tape to mark the pathway into the soft release location.
- (c) Clearly record the location of the bag in relation to a particular trap point on the data sheet. Leave sufficient details so that another member of staff could locate the bag.
- (d) Ensure equipment is packed away, all is quiet and all other people are at a distance. Have car engines running before final placing of the soft release to avoid startling the animal by the sudden noise of the car.

ANIMAL WELFARE: If the joey is not taped in, do not introduce the joey to the bag with its mother until you are situated at the soft release site.

- (e) Carefully lay out the bag in the sheltered position and allow the mother to settle. If possible, secure a rear corner of the bag to reduce the risk of the animal getting tangled in the bag when exiting, or from hopping away in the bag.
- (f) If the joey is not taped in, introduce the joey into the bag and place as close to the mother as possible without aggravating the mother. **CAUTION:** Take care to ensure the mother does not see an escape route as this will increase the risk of her escaping and leaving her joey.
- (g) Twist or fold the mouth of the bag in a way that will allow the mother and joey to exit from the bag with moderate ease. Ensure the positioning of the bag does not hinder their exit.
- (h) Allow the mother and joey to settle whilst lightly securing the bag opening and then retreat slowly and quietly (e.g. avoid crunching leaf litter and rubbing of wet weather gear). The first couple of minutes after your retreat are the most crucial as the mother may still be agitated.
- (i) Later that afternoon, you can return to the release site and observe the bag from a distance to check if the animals have already left. Note: you must do this with considerable caution to avoid the risk of disturbing the animals and causing the mother to bolt. Often both the mother and joey will still be in the bag and will likely leave in the evening. If the bag appears to be empty, approach the bag quietly as you sometimes may find that the mother has left but the joey is still in the bag. Refer to Section 5.5 for guidance on what to do if only the joey is left in the bag.
- (j) If the bag appeared to have both mother and joey in it in the afternoon, you must return again the following morning to check whether the mother and joey have left. Approach the bag quietly as sometimes you may find the mother and joey are still in the bag. If just the joey is still in the bag, refer to Section 5.5. If they are both still in the bag, quietly gather the mouth of the bag in one hand and then make sure that they are still alive by softly placing a hand on the animal on the outside of the bag.

If the mother and joey are still in the bag and alive, consider the following options:

- If the joey was taped in, check on the taping and consider immediate release if the taping is still secure and/or the mother has significantly calmed down.

- If mother and joey appear to be fine, consider providing them with a bait ball/food and leaving them in the bag for another day. Check to make sure the exit from the bag is not too difficult. Repeat steps (h) to (j).

ANIMAL WELFARE: Some peanut butters use xylitol as a sugar substitute. There are no data available regarding the toxicity of xylitol to Australian wildlife, but xylitol is toxic to dogs. If using universal bait, please check the ingredient list on the peanut butter and avoid brands containing xylitol.

- Depending on the situation, you may need to consider taking the mother and joey into care, euthanasing the joey or euthanasing both the mother and joey.

5.5 Reuniting, retaining or euthanasing joeys

5.5.1 Reuniting joeys

If competent personnel with experience in joey rehabilitation are available and there is a possibility of recapturing the mother on the grid or transect, then it may be possible to reunite the mother with its joey. If the joey is furred, and is not looking lethargic or dehydrated, keep it warm in a joey kit. The joey can be cared for by the experienced rehabilitator and accompany the trapping team to the original capture location until such a time as the mother can be recaptured. **CAUTION:** Once a mother and pouch young are separated, the mother's milk supply starts reducing and therefore this option should only be attempted for 1-2 days, and therefore reuniting the joey with the mother is only an option if achievable within 48 hours.

Competent personnel with experience in joey rehabilitation may provide oral fluid support while attempting to locate the mother. Electrolytes should be fed instead of joey formula for the first 24 hours, followed by a gradual transition to joey formula as per standard joey feeding regimes. Oral feeding should **not** be attempted by personnel without the relevant rehabilitation experience.

ANIMAL WELFARE: It is important to keep accurate records to ensure ejected pouch young are returned to the correct mother and trap location.

An animal handler needs to be allocated responsibility for the care of the joey. If the mother is recaptured, conduct another soft release to give them another chance to reunite. If the mother and joey cannot be reunited, then the animal handler will need to arrange euthanasia or co-ordinate/organise rehabilitation of the joey (see Sections 5.5.2 and 5.5.3 for further guidance).

The following is general advice on temporarily caring for joeys:

- a) The first priority in caring for pouch young is to keep them warm and maintain a stable temperature appropriate to their developmental stage (see Table 1). A thermometer should be placed inside the joey kit to monitor temperature, and the joey should be checked regularly. During initial handling, the pouch young should be placed in a makeshift pouch under clothing against skin until they are transferred to a joey kit with a heat pack/pad or hot water bottle. A joey placed against skin will not keep the joey sufficiently warm for extended periods because the warmth does not surround the joey as it would in a pouch. Note: be mindful not to overheat larger, fully furred joeys. Consider the development stage of the joey when determining measures required to

keep them warm; refer to Table 1 and Figure 2 for guidance.

- b) Record the date, mother's ID, and place of capture on flagging tape tied to the joey pouch. Make sure that the incident is clearly noted on the trapping data sheet (e.g. 'Joey ejected & abandoned, UNDER CARE').

Table 1: Care requirements for hand-reared marsupials at different development stages.

Age factor	Physical features	Milk feeds per day	Temperature required	Other care requirements
<0.4	Furless pink skin, eyes closed, ears down, yellow custard faeces.	8–12	34–36°C	Prognosis poor, pouch-bound. Apply lotion to skin at least twice daily.
0.4–0.5	Furless, eyes will open, ears will become erect, thick yellow custard faeces.	6–8	32–34°C	Pouch-bound. Apply lotion to skin once to twice daily.
0.5–0.6	Colour deepening, very fine fur appearing. Starting to put head out of pouch. Mustard toothpaste consistency faeces.	5–6	30–32°C	Pouch-bound. Apply lotion to tail and feet daily. Provide with solid foods, soil and adult faeces for contact when head is out of pouch.
0.6–0.7	Short sleek fur, endothermic, starting to emerge from pouch. Olive-green toothpaste to soft pelleted faeces.	4–5	28–30°C	Provide opportunity for pouch exit and return. Give access to solid foods with constant access to pouch.
0.7–1.0	Fur becoming longer and denser. Well co-ordinated movement when out of pouch. Soft to firm dark green pellets.	3–4	20–25°C	Establish an outdoor enclosure with access to pouch, nest-box or substitute mother, depending on species. Provide natural diet.
>1.0	Fur dense. Age of permanent emergence from pouch. Firm dark green pellets.	2	Ambient	Remove pouch. Gradually reduce milk feeds to zero per day. Reduce human contact.

Source: McCracken, H.E. (2008), *Veterinary aspects of hand-rearing orphaned marsupials*, in Vogelnest, L. & Woods, R. (eds), *Medicine of Australian Mammals*, pp. 13–39, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

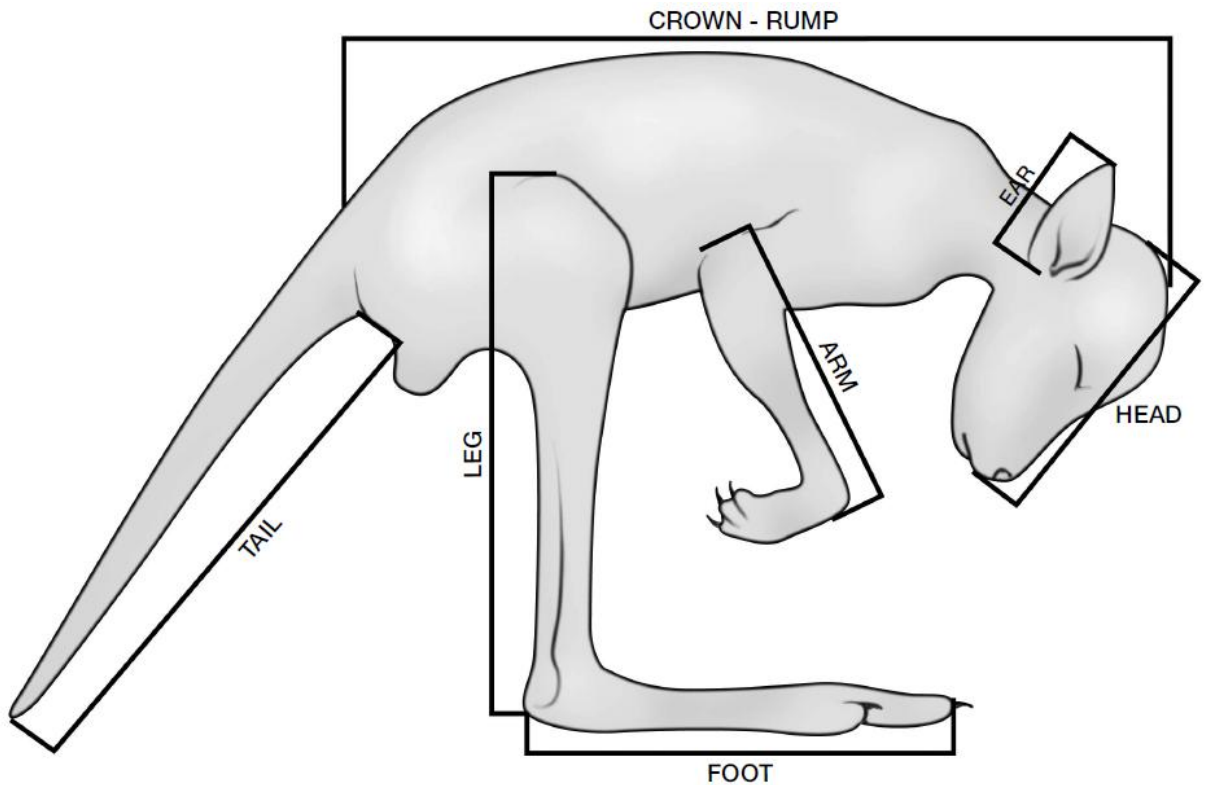


Figure 2: Standard measurements of marsupial pouch young used for age determination. (Source: McCracken, H.E. (2008), *Veterinary aspects of hand-rearing orphaned marsupials*, in Vogelnest, L. & Woods, R. (eds), *Medicine of Australian Mammals*, pp. 13–39, CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.)

5.5.2 Retaining joeys

Rehabilitation of dependent offspring must only be considered if consistent with the department guidelines *Making Decisions on the Fate of Rehabilitated Fauna* and the department *Code of Practice for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Western Australia*. As outlined in the *Code of Practice for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Western Australia*, wildlife must be promptly euthanased when:

- it is necessary to alleviate unreasonable and/or incurable pain, distress, trauma, sickness or injury;
- further treatment is not practical, including where extensive veterinary intervention is likely to be required for the animal to be rehabilitated;
- recovery is not expected such that the animal can be successfully released to the wild; or
- an animal requires an extended period in captivity which is likely to be detrimental to its future release

Particular considerations for ejected joeys include:

- Unfurred pouch young have a low chance of survival, especially if trauma or hypothermia have occurred and if immediate skilled care is unavailable.

- Pouch young are sometimes ejected from the pouch long before the trap is checked and these young, particularly when unfurred, lose heat rapidly which greatly reduces their chances of survival. Joeys may also be trampled by their mother, inflicting injuries such as scratches, punctures and bruising. Joeys that are very cold and/or injured have a poor chance of survival and the most humane option is to euthanase.
- If care cannot be given within six hours, the joey's chances of survival are significantly reduced and the amount of suffering increases.

Joeys should only be kept alive if a suitable release location is available where the animal will have reasonable survival probability for release following rehabilitation.

It is preferable to screen and select an appropriate wildlife rehabilitator prior to the survey or monitoring activity, ensuring that they are appropriately licenced, have experience with the specific species and capacity to provide care. The Wildcare Helpline can be reached on (08) 9474 9055 to assist with locating an appropriate licenced wildlife rehabilitator. Go to <https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/wildlife-and-ecosystems/animals/wildcare-helpline> for more information.

Note: The Chief Investigator is responsible for the fate of the animal after rehabilitation and must ensure the animal is released back to the capture site or elsewhere in consultation with a DBCA Wildlife Officer. This is particularly important for threatened species.

Keeping track of the ultimate fate of the joey is also important for annual reporting requirements for projects approved by the department's AEC.

5.5.3 Euthanasing joeys

Refer to the department SOP *Euthanasia of Animals Under Field Conditions* for further guidance. Euthanasia should only be conducted by, or under the supervision of, experienced personnel.

6 Competencies

A person who is competent has the knowledge, skills, and experiences that allow them to capture and handle animals successfully, and appropriately manage adverse events as required. Department personnel, and other external parties covered by the department's Animal Ethics Committee, undertaking projects involving trapping of species that may eject pouch young require approval from the Animal Ethics Committee and will need to satisfy the competency requirements detailed in Table 2. Other groups, organisations or individuals using this SOP to guide their decision making in relation to ejected pouch young are encouraged to also meet these competency requirements as well as their animal welfare legislative obligations.

It should be noted that sampling design details such as intensity and scope of the project undertaken will determine the level of competency required and Table 2 provides advice for standard monitoring only.

Table 2. Competency requirements for Animal Handlers of projects that may involve the management of ejected pouch young.

Competency category	Competency requirement	Competency assessment
Knowledge	Broad understanding the framework governing the use of animals in research and environmental studies in Western Australia	Training (e.g. DBCA Fauna Management Course or equivalent training). In applications, provide details on the course provider, course name and year.
	Understanding species biology and ecology	Personnel should be familiar with the behaviour of species prone to ejecting pouch young and be aware of ways to reduce the stress of these species. This knowledge may be gained through sufficient field experience and consultation of field guides and other literature.
Animal handling and processing skills/experience required	Experience handling marsupials	Personnel should be experienced in handling and restraint of species prone to ejecting pouch young. This experience is best obtained under supervision of more experienced personnel. In applications, provide details on experience relating to the expected species or species groups.
	Experience managing disease risk in wildlife management	Personnel should be familiar with hygiene procedures. This knowledge may be gained through sufficient field experience and consultation of literature.

In conjunction with possessing the required understanding and knowledge of ejected pouch young management procedures and animal welfare requirements, a guide to the minimum experience and skill requirements for an Animal Handler to be considered competent to manage ejected pouch young is as follows (noting that some personnel with experience may still require initial supervision in unfamiliar locations or with species that they have not encountered previously):

- Minimum 30 individuals of similar species handled.
- Minimum 6 successful joey interventions (taping of pouch young and soft release).
- Recency of time in field is within the past 5 years.

7 Approvals

In Western Australia any person using animals for scientific purposes must be covered by a licence issued under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, which is administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Projects involving wildlife may also require a licence/authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (examples below). Personnel should consult the department's Wildlife Licensing Section for further guidance. It is your responsibility to ensure you comply with the requirements of all applicable legislation.

- Fauna taking (scientific or other purposes) licence (Reg 25)
- Fauna taking (biological assessment) licence (Reg 27)
- Fauna taking (relocation) licence (Reg 28)
- Section 40 Ministerial Authorisation to take or disturb threatened species

If a pouch young is taken into care, the rehabilitator must comply with the requirements of Regulation 35 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018.

8 Occupational Health and Safety

The following departmental SOPs for wildlife survey and monitoring activities are relevant to occupational health and safety:

- *SOP Managing Disease Risk and Biosecurity in Wildlife Management*
- *SOP Hand Restraint of Wildlife*

Departmental personnel, contractors and volunteers have duties and responsibilities under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* and Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 to ensure the health and safety of all involved. Fieldwork is to be undertaken in line with the department's corporate guidelines, policies and standard operating procedures, including but not limited to, risk management and job safety analyses. Further information can be found at

<https://dbca.sharepoint.com/Divisions/corporate/people-services/HS/SitePages/SOPs.aspx>

If department personnel or volunteers are injured, please refer to the departmental Health, Safety and Wellbeing Section's 'Reporting Hazards, Near-misses and Incidents' intranet page, which can be found at

<https://dbca.sharepoint.com/Divisions/corporate/people-services/HS/SitePages/Reporting-Hazards,-Near-Misses-and-Incidents.aspx>

9 Further Reading

The following SOPs have been mentioned in this advice, and it is recommended that they are consulted when proposing to handle and restrain animals using soft containment:

- Department SOP *First Aid for Animals*
- Department SOP *Managing Disease Risk and Biosecurity in Wildlife Management*

- Department SOP *Euthanasia of Animals Under Field Conditions*

For further advice refer also to:

National Health and Medical Research Council (2013) *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*, 8th edition. Canberra: National Health and Medical Research Council.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2019) *Code of Practice for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Western Australia*, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. [Code of Practice for Wildlife Rehabilitation in Western Australia \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2020). Western Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines – Making decisions on the fate of rehabilitated fauna. [Wildlife Rehabilitation Standards and Guidelines - Making decisions on the fate of rehabilitated fauna \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

10 Glossary of Terms

Animal Handler: A person listed on an application to the department's Animal Ethics Committee who will be responsible for handling animals during the project.

Joey: A dependant juvenile marsupial encompassing both 'pouch young' and 'young-at-heel'.

Pouch young: Offspring of a marsupial residing within the mother's pouch.

Soft release: Procedure where an animal is left inside an open bag to self-release.

Taping: Procedure where a pouch young is returned to its mother's pouch and adhesive tape applied to the opening to temporarily prevent the mother ejecting the young.

Young-at-heel: A fully developed and furred dependant offspring living outside the pouch but still drinking its mother's milk.