

2025-26 Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants

Guidelines



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Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

Warning: Health and safety are paramount: You must put in place relevant Work Health Safety policies and procedures to ensure the safety of those undertaking grant activities.

Photo credit

Tawny Frogmouth, Marcia Riederer, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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Accessibility

To receive this document in an alternative format, phone the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, email customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au or contact National Relay Service on 133 677. Available at [DEECA website](http://www.deeca.vic.gov.au) (www.deeca.vic.gov.au).

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1. What is Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants Program?

The Victorian Government's Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants (WRG) program provides funding to support authorised shelter operators and foster carers to rehabilitate sick, injured or orphaned wildlife with the goal of releasing these animals back to the wild.

The objectives of the WRG program aim to help wildlife rehabilitators to:

- improve the standard of wildlife care they can provide
- improve their facilities to treat, hold and successfully rehabilitate wildlife for release
- increase their knowledge/skills in the care and rehabilitation of wildlife.

2. What are the funding details?

In 2025-26, the total funding allocation to support wildlife rehabilitators is \$300,000. Grants will be capped at \$3,000 per eligible shelter operator and \$2,000 per eligible foster carer applicant.

The difference in funding amount acknowledges that shelter operators take in a larger number of animals and also, they provide support to foster carers to learn how to assess and care for many species of wildlife that come into care.

To ensure equitable access across rehabilitators funding, priority will be given to rehabilitators who have not received WRG funds or other Victorian Government funding support in the last two years.

3. Who can apply?

To be eligible for the 2025-26 Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants, applicant must meet all the following requirements:

- Hold current authorisation as a wildlife shelter operator or foster carer under section 28A of the *Wildlife Act 1975*
- Be actively engaged in the care and rehabilitation of injured, sick or orphaned wildlife and maintain an up-to-date shelter records in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- Provide written consent of the property owner if the applicant is renting the premises where wildlife rehabilitation activities are undertaken.
- Provide written consent of the landowner (public or private) for installation of nest box activities (if applicable)

We accept one application per authorised location/address only.

4. Who cannot apply?

The following individuals are ineligible to apply:

- any person that has been convicted of any offence under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, *Wildlife Regulations 2013*, *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* or similar interstate or federal legislation during the last 10 years
- any person who does not hold a valid wildlife shelter operator or foster carer authorisation under section 28A of the *Wildlife Act 1975*
- any person who has an outstanding/unresolved Improvement Notice from Conservation Regulator
- any person who failed to complete milestones in their previous funding agreements with DEECA i.e., did not submit final completion reports or acquittal reports (WRG 2019 to 2023 rounds)
- any person who intends to transfer approved grant funding to support another person's project.

5. What might be funded?

The 2025-26 WRG program will fund the following:

General Infrastructure and Equipment

- general infrastructure and equipment to assist with the operation of a wildlife shelter and rehabilitation facilities, e.g., build a wombat enclosure, buy an aviary or buy portable cages.

You must provide a quote and design dimensions for any proposed enclosures to be constructed (refer to <https://content.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/OCR-Wildlife-rehabilitator-guide-FA02-scren.pdf> for DEECA recommended enclosure specifications).

Other Equipment

- purchase of a brooder box or equivalent unit - one unit per application.

You must provide justification for the item and must adhere to your authorisation, for example, brooder box intended to provide oxygenation will not be approved, as this type of intervention requires veterinary oversight and should only occur within wildlife hospitals.

- secateurs, loppers and saws may be requested to support enclosure set up and food collection. In your application, applicant must include a reasonable cost for each item, a short explanation of why the tools are needed for the species you are caring and how the tools will help your planned activities.
- animal handling and rescue equipment, for example brooder box, gloves or nets, PPE for those working with bat species. Information within the application must include justification for specific species and how the equipment will support activities.

Consumable Items

- purchase of food for wildlife species under care according to their nutritional needs.
- veterinary clinical assessment and diagnostic consultation costs, prescribed treatment including medicines and supplies.
- personal protective equipment (PPE) for shelter biosecurity purposes for example, disposable gloves, face masks, aprons/gowns, footwear (rubber boots).
- disinfectants to support shelter biosecurity practices, for example F10SC and 1L disinfectant.

Training and skill development

- Native wildlife education and training which may be competency-based training delivered by a registered training organisation or any other approved training to be held in the funding period.
- Native wildlife reference materials – non-veterinary (veterinary medicine texts will not be approved).

DEECA reserves the right to

- Not approve any application or
- Approve a lesser amount than that applied for

The full list of eligible items/activities are listed at **Appendix A**.

Items must be purchased and paid for between **1 October 2025 and 30 September 2026**.

Please ensure you keep receipts as they may be requested for auditing purposes.

6. What will not be funded?

The WRG program will not fund the following activities and items:

- the purchase of land
- activities that are already funded through another organisation or program (example: WIRES, Wildlife Victoria, local Council, or other Victorian Government's initiatives)
- recurrent operating costs, for example rent and utility costs, and/or activities that establish expectation of ongoing funding
- purchase of computers, laptops, tablets, cameras, and smartphones
- expenses associated with other animals (i.e., domestic pets) or wildlife that is not covered by your authorisation
- marketing, advertising, fundraising or promotional activities and activities located outside the State of Victoria
- any item that is in contravention of the conditions of the shelter authorisation
- any illegal activity
- political campaigning or advocacy activities for political parties

- expenditure to release recovered animals to another shelter operator instead of releasing back to the wild or expenditure to transport/release animals across the Victorian border
- expenditure to support recreational wildlife or commercial wildlife licenced businesses
- expenditure to support another person (with or without authorisation)
- any other item or activity determined by DEECA through the assessment process to be an inappropriate or unsuitable use of the funds.

The full list of non-eligible items/activities are listed at **Appendix B**.

7. What are the assessment criteria?

First, applicants will be checked for eligibility to make sure that the applicant and their activities are eligible for funding. After that, eligible applications will be assessed using the criteria listed below. Each criterion is given a percentage weighting to indicate its relative importance in the assessment process. Applications should address all relevant criteria.

Assessment Criteria	Consideration	Weighting
Describe how you will improve standards of care and rehabilitation for wildlife that align with program objectives.	Applicants must provide a <u>clear</u> description of how their proposed project aligns with the program objectives. i.e. what do you need to enhance or improve your standard of care in rehabilitation?	30%
Demonstrate how the items requested align with your authorisation and the overall value for money of items requested.	Applicants must demonstrate the requested items are within reasonable budget cost and there is clear justification for their needs. Applicants will be assessed against these criteria: • whether applicant is actively rehabilitating and caring for wildlife and where applicable, specific species by providing a copy of their most recent shelter records (1 year) as evidence • the facilities or consumable items requested are relevant or appropriate to specific species rehabilitation needs (supporting documents such as design and size for enclosures) • whether the applicant has the ability to complete the project on time and within the budget • inclusion of a quote for any single item that is equal to or greater than \$500.	50%

Demonstrate how you proactively develop your own knowledge and skills in wildlife rehabilitation.	Applicants must demonstrate how they continue to improve their own knowledge and understanding to achieve high standards of animal care. Application will be assessed against these criteria: • have established working relationship with local vets to assist with treatment or assessment • engage in ongoing mentor-mentee relationships or strong networks and connections • cooperate in sharing information and resources • record of training courses (relevant to your authorisation) taken or to be taken • manage biosecurity within the shelter for wildlife under rehabilitation.	20%
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8. What supporting documents or evidence are required?

To assess your grant application, you **MUST** attach to the application form the following documents:

- your most recent shelter records (**April 2024-September 2025**) (Refer to **Appendix C** for DEECA templates)
- quote for single item equivalent to or greater than \$500 from any category – failure to provide this will result in your application ineligible.
- layout or design and dimensions of enclosures (if seeking funding for new infrastructure must meet the DEECA enclosure requirements under your shelter authorisation). Refer to link <https://content.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/OCR-Wildlife-rehabilitator-guide-FA02-scren.pdf>
- photographs of the existing facility, area, or equipment (if seeking funding to replace/renew them)
- list and evidence of training courses attended, if any (Refer to **Appendix D** DEECA templates) with evidence. (for rehabilitation only and not for TAFE or other non-wildlife related training)
- a signed written consent from the property owner to undertake the shelter activities if renting.
- a signed written consent from the land or property owner to undertake nest box installation.

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG. The maximum file size for each file is 10MB.

If you have documents to submit that cannot be attached to your online application, you can email them to enviro.grants@deeca.vic.gov.au quoting your unique **GA-FRXXXX-XXXX** number on the subject line. Attach all documents to one email, zipping the files if required.

Note: all supporting or evidence documents listed must be uploaded to the application before submission. No hard copy applications will be accepted.

9. What are the funding conditions?

Funding Agreements

Successful applicants must enter into a funding agreement with DEECA.

The Victorian Common Funding Agreement (short form) will be used for this funding. Information is available on <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-common-funding-agreement>.

DEECA will send the agreement via Adobe Sign to successful applicants to sign electronically.

The activity does not include using the funding for political campaigning or advocacy activities for political parties.

Legislative and Regulatory Requirements

In delivering the activity grant recipients are required to comply with all relevant Commonwealth and state/territory legislations and regulations, including but not limited to:

- *The Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth)*
- *The Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)*
- *Wildlife Act 1975 (Vic)*
- *Wildlife Regulations 2013*
- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*
- *Guide to the Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006.*

All recipients are required to comply with their authorisation conditions.

Tax Implications

Applicants should consult the Australian Taxation Office or seek professional advice on any taxation implications that may arise from this grant funding.

Successful applicants without an ABN will need to provide a completed Australian Taxation Office form 'Statement by a Supplier' so that no withholding tax is required from the grant payment.

Acknowledging Victorian Government support

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge Victorian Government support. Promotional guidelines at <https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/grants> will form part of the funding agreement. Successful applicants must liaise with the departmental program area to coordinate any public events or announcements related to the project.

Payments

Payments will be made when:

- the funding agreement has been signed by both parties (recipient and DEECA)
- grant recipient has provided additional information and supplier details form requested by DEECA
- other terms and conditions of funding continue to be met by recipient.

Monitoring and Reporting

Grant recipients are required to comply with project monitoring and reporting requirements as outlined in the funding agreement. This may include progress reports, site inspections, completion reports and acquittal documentation to the agreement.

Privacy

Any personal information about you or a third party in your application will be collected by the department for the purposes of administering your grant application and informing Members of Parliament of successful applications. Personal information may also be disclosed to external experts, such as members of assessment panels, or other Government Departments for assessment, reporting, advice, comment or for discussions regarding alternative or collaborative grant funding opportunities. If you intend to include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of the contents of this privacy statement.

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be collected, held, managed, used, disclosed, or transferred in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and other applicable laws.

DEECA is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. You can find the DEECA Privacy Policy online at www.deeca.vic.gov.au/privacy. Requests for access to information about you held by DEECA should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 8002 or contact by emailing Foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au.

10. What is the application process?

Applications are submitted online using the Grants Online portal.

To apply, go to the grant program web page <https://wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants> and click on the 'Start New Application' button. To return to a saved draft application, click on the 'Access Saved Application' button.

Attaching required documents:

Supporting documents must be in an acceptable file type, such as Word, Excel, PDF, or JPEG. The maximum file size for each file is 10MB.

You will receive a unique application number (GA-FRXXXX-XXXXX) when you submit an application online. Please write it down for future reference and quote it when communicating with the department about your application.

If you have documents to submit that cannot be attached to your online application, you can email them to grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au quoting your application number. Attach all documents to one email, zipping the files if required.

Make sure your application is submitted by **3:00 pm on Tuesday, 2 December 2025 (AEST)**

No hard copy applications will be accepted. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

11. Additional information

Additional information is available at <https://wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants>.

If you require assistance submitting your funding application online, email grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au

For questions specific to the Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants, please email enviro.grants@deeca.vic.gov.au. You can also contact DEECA Customer Contact Centre by calling 136 186.

12. What is the notification process?

All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application once the assessment and approval processes are completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback on their application via email (enviro.grants@deeca.vic.gov.au).

13. Key dates

Applications open	17 October 2025 (AEST)
Applications close	3:00 pm on Tuesday 2 December 2025 (AEST)
Applicants notified	January / February 2026

14. Checklist

Read these guidelines and the information about the WRG grant program at <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants> before applying. Please complete the following checklist.

- ☐ check if you are, or your organisation is, eligible for this grant funding?
- ☐ check if your activity is eligible for this grant funding?
- ☐ check that you will be able to comply with all relevant laws and regulations in the delivery of your activity?
- ☐ check that you have fully completed the application form by answering all relevant questions asked?
- ☐ check that you attached all the appropriate supporting documents requested?

Appendix A – Eligible Items

Period of expenditure: Items must be purchased and paid for between 1 October 2025 and 30 September 2026.	
General infrastructure and equipment	Description
Enclosures / Shelter / Aviaries / Reptile terrarium (simple and not advance commercial type)	You must comply with Condition 14 of the <i>Wildlife – Rehabilitation Authorisation Guide: Things you need to know, June 2023</i> .
Fencing enclosures (no barbed wire) and accessories	Refer to size of animal, minimum floor area per animal and minimum height. For example, minimum height for possum, wallabies, wombats and kangaroo is 200 cm.
Brooder box or equivalent	Brooder box or equivalent is intended to provide supporting climatic condition for compromised wildlife. Only one brooder box or equivalent per applicant is allowed. You must provide justification to your needs. Brooder unit or Intensive Care Units (oxygen concentrator that is intended to provide oxygenation will not be approved, as this type of intervention requires veterinary oversight and should only occur within wildlife hospitals and advance unit are not eligible) (no Veterinary Grade).
Rescue equipment such as Heat boxes or heat pads; Portable cages / pet packs; rescue basket, hand net, large folding net	Basic rescue equipment to assist with animal rescue or secure handling of injured, sick or orphaned wildlife. This is to minimise stress to the wildlife and safely transport animal to the nearest Vet clinic for best possible care and attention or into shelter.
Water tanks, ponds (simple filters)	These equipment or facilities are to provide basic care to assist in the rehabilitation of wildlife. Pond water needs to be managed appropriately for animal health and biosecurity.
Prunner / trimmers capped at \$300 Weighing scale (reasonably priced)	To collect necessary browse for animal under care. To accurate measure and allocate appropriate serving for animal under care to optimise nutrition and minimum waste.
Spotlights (hand-held only) Binoculars / monocular (up to \$300) GPS ² (up to \$300)	Spotlights and binoculars are to assist with rescuing and assisting in spotting potential hazards or difficult terrain during rescuing. Wildlife tracking research permit is required if GPS is requested to track animals. Ensure the items requested align with the purpose of your authorisation.
Nesting boxes	Appropriate nestbox sizing for different species requirements. Installation on public or private land must provide a letter of consent from the land manager or landowner
Training courses and educational materials	
Training for presenting wildlife (not human) Workshops, conference registrations (capped at \$300 per application (Australia only), webinars	Training -rescue and care of wildlife and must relate to wildlife and apply learnings in their operations. Wildlife conference (registration only). Flights, accommodation, and food are not eligible. If you received funding for AWRC 2025 from 2024-25 WRG. You are not eligible to apply for the same item.
Books (you must list the name/s of the books/reference materials)	Wildlife Reference manuals for rehabilitation not Veterinarian manual.
Consumable items (maximum limit of \$1,500 per applicant - no stock piling)	
Veterinary fees and medications prescribed by a veterinarian practitioner diagnostics and	Veterinary visit for injured and sick animals.

treatment, X-ray, bloods, euthanasia (with local veterinarians)	
Fuel (capped at \$300)	Transport sick and injured wildlife to and from Vet clinic or rescue/release wildlife
Milk formula and replacement, pellets, other feed	All milk formula and feed (dried, fresh or frozen)
Other appropriate consumables and provision to care for injured sick or orphaned wildlife	Medical supplies including gauze, cotton tips, bandages, thermometers, absorbent pads or other supportive items such as electrolytes, cropping needles, bottle teats
Vaccinations or booster costs	Rabies virus and other lyssaviruses vaccination for working with bat species
Tip fees	Permitted providing you comply with Condition 12 of https://www.vic.gov.au/wildlife-rehabilitator-authorisation-guide
Improved biosecurity	
Disposable gloves, face masks, aprons/gowns, footwear (rubber boots), hand wash, hand sanitiser, tissues, etc Personal first aid kits; gauntlets, eye protection, snake gaiters, etc	Personal protective equipment as part of rehabilitation
Foot baths, Spray bottles (500mL, 1L) for disinfectants, F10SC Fogger	Disinfect facilities and work areas. Example: Fill Flogger with a disinfectant like F10 and used to fumigate the room if they have had issues with chlamydia or beak and feather disease. A fogger can be part of an overall shelter biosecurity plan, e.g. fogging enclosures when vacated regardless of known infectious disease.

Appendix B – Non-Eligible Items

What items will not be funded?		
General infrastructure and equipment		
Generators, solar panel, hot water system and firefighting pump and hoses	Dishwashers, freezers, fridge, washing machine, Portable air conditioners and heaters	Computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phone, smartphones, GoPro
Trees for rehabilitation and landscaping materials (plants or grass seeds)	Firearms, captive bolt, dart guns, ammunition and related equipment	Vehicle mounted spotlights (handheld spotlights are acceptable)
Trailers – all types including car, boat, ride on mower, etc	Electric fencing unit, virtual fencing or barbed wire fencing	InfraRed and motion-sensing surveillance cameras, wireless wildlife trail cameras, game cameras, night vision cameras and Drones.
Vehicle purchase including motorbike; any vehicle servicing, maintenance or registration	Synthetic grass, pavers or plastic flooring (outdoor)	Promotional materials including magnets, business cards, flyers, promotional items, reflective stickers
Voroscope and microscope	High powered pruners, mulchers, trimmers Chainsaws including pole chainsaws and Firefighting equipment	Radio telemetry, handheld radio sets
High powered ICU (oxygen concentrator) and veterinary grade equipment	Donation boxes	Commercial/submersible scales
Shipping containers	Veterinary medical equipment, for example, blood analysers, Urine refractometer or analyser, IV fluid pumps	Industrial Ladder
Training courses and educational materials		
Firearms, captive bolt and darting training and licence	Membership or association fees or subscriptions	Snake and reptile handling training
Arboriculture courses (such as Tree climbing)	Medicinal, veterinary, exotic wildlife or pet reference books/materials	Advanced level First Aid Training including wilderness
TAFE course (Other, vet training)		
Consumable items		
Vouchers for consumable items, including fuel vouchers	Insurance (all types)	Letha barb for euthanasia, EZ-nabbera, tranquilizers
Credit to vets	NaCl and needle, Baycox, Needles and syringes	Legal expenses, Travel expenses for interstate releases
Utility costs including rates, electricity, water, gas, and sewerage bills	Scheduled chemical capture drugs listed in Schedule 4 and 8 in the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006</i> .	Species ¹ not covered by your Authorisation. https://www.vic.gov.au/wildlife-rehabilitator-authorisation-guide
Equipment or expenditure related to applicant's recreational and commercial operational activities are ineligible		

For more information, refer to *DEECA Wildlife – Rehabilitation Authorisation Guide: Things you need to know, June 2023*.
(<https://www.vic.gov.au/wildlife-rehabilitator-authorisation-guide>)

¹**Note:** You must not acquire, receive, possess, destroy (euthanise) or dispose of the following wildlife: whales, dolphins, seals, marine turtles, platypus, fish, deer, non-indigenous quail, pheasants and partridges.

Appendix C – Shelter Records

Which Shelter records are required in this round?

- Shelter Operators – Records from 2024-25
- Foster Carers to obtain records from your Shelter Operators

You can download a copy of the Wildlife shelter record sheet from <https://www.vic.gov.au/wildlife-rehabilitation-shelters-and-foster-carers>

- [Wildlife shelter record sheet](#)
- [Wildlife code book](#)
- [Species code for use on wildlife shelter record sheets](#)

Appendix D – Training attendance Record

This template was developed from applicant feedback from previous years. Each year in the Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants application form, a question asks you to list training/course details you have completed over the years. This template is for you to update once you complete training or attend conferences. Simply upload the template into the application form without having to re-type the information each year <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants>

Name of course/ training/conference	Provider name of course/training /conference	Location of course/training /conference	Date completed	Comments about course/training / conference if applicable
Example Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference 2022	National Wildlife Rehabilitation Group	Melbourne	13-15 August 2022	Attended the conference
Together for Wildlife webinar series	Zoos Victoria, Australian Veterinary Association, IFAW, RSPCA Victoria, University of Melbourne, and DEECA	Online	14 Oct 2025	Online training and support opportunities offered by the Together for Wildlife collaboration

Appendix E – Resources

Web link resources	
Victorian Wildlife Rehabilitation Guidelines, DEECA	Victorian Wildlife Rehabilitation Guidelines https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/668117/Victorian-Wildlife-Rehabilitation-Guidelines-Part-A-General-Information.pdf https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/668118/Victorian-Wildlife-Rehabilitation-Guidelines-Part-B-Mammals.pdf https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/668122/Victorian-Wildlife-Rehabilitation-Guidelines-Part-B-Birds.pdf https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/668120/Victorian-Wildlife-Rehabilitation-Guidelines-Part-B-Reptiles-and-Amphibians.pdf
Wildlife Rehabilitator guide, DEECA	https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/OCR-Wildlife-rehabilitator-guide-FA02-scren.pdf
Code of Practice for the Welfare of Wildlife during rehabilitation	Code of Practice for the Welfare of Wildlife During Rehabilitation Victorian codes of practice for animal welfare Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Animal Welfare Victoria Livestock and animals Agriculture Victoria
Capture and first aid	https://www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com/files/CaptureMyopathy-AnneFowler.pdf https://www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com/files/RecognitionOfPainInWildlife-AnneFowler.pdf http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/3619.htmhttp://fourthcrossingwildlife.com/files/TreatingBurntWildlife-Anne-Fowler.pdf
Nest boxes	https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/research/people-and-nature/use-of-nest-boxes-in-victoria https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/328191/Nest-box-fact-sheet-general-guide.pdf
Australian Government Avian Influenza	H7 high pathogenicity avian influenza Outbreak
DEECA-Agricultural Victoria Avian Influenza, H5N1	https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/poultry-diseases/avian-influenza-bird-flu/report-sick-or-dead-wild-birds-and-wildlife https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/1143244/CS-1855-H5-Bird-Flu-Avoid,-Record,-Report-in-Victoria-sign-A3.pdf High pathogenic avian influenza https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ChGUc7BvV/
Wildlife Health Australia	https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au https://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Resource-Centre/H5-bird-flu https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/Our-Work/Surveillance/Wild-Bird-Surveillance https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/online-training-courses/
Zoos Victoria	https://www.zoo.org.au/emergency-wildlife-help/
Deakin University	HPAI Dashboard (Global H5 HPAI Event Map)

Appendix F – High Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Additional resources

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) is a highly contagious viral disease that can cause severe illness and death in birds. A new strain of the virus, HPAI H5N1, is more concerning than previous strains, as it not only causes mass mortality in poultry but also in wild birds and some mammals.

At the time of publishing this guideline in September 2025, HPAI H5N1 has not yet been detected in Australia.

The most critical indicator of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds and wildlife is sudden death. Other signs in wild birds are:

- lack of coordination, tremors, swimming in circles
- twisted neck or other unusual posture
- inability to stand or fly
- diarrhoea
- difficulty breathing, coughing or sneezing
- swelling around the head, neck and eyes
- cloudiness or change in colour of the eyes.

Reporting suspected cases in wildlife

If you find sick or dead wild birds or wildlife with signs of HPAI H5N1:

- AVOID contact with sick or dead wild birds or wildlife and their environment
- RECORD what you see
- [REPORT to us by using this form](#) or call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 in line with the guidance below.

[Report](#) clusters of five or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.

Report even one

- sick or dead penguin or pelican
- sick or dead bird of prey, such as hawks, owls, eagles
- sick or dead black swan
- sick or dead marine mammal, such as seals, sea lions, dolphins.

Following a report, DEECA will evaluate the need for diagnostic testing for further investigation.

We acknowledge that this has the potential to be distressing for people. We thank the community for their assistance.

For more information, please visit DEECA – [Wildlife High pathogenic avian influenza](#) or Agriculture Victoria <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au> or [Avian influenza](#) | [Poultry diseases](#) | [Animal diseases](#) | [Biosecurity](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

