

## *Wildlife Welfare Concerns: Escalation Pathway*

Wildlife Network Tasmania (WNT) does not coordinate wildlife rescues or placements. However, we recognise the importance of clear, timely escalation pathways when animal welfare concerns arise.

The following pathway outlines where concerns should be raised, depending on the nature of the issue.

### 1. IMMEDIATE WELFARE RISK (URGENT SITUATIONS)

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If an animal is injured, deteriorating, or at immediate risk:

- Contact a wildlife-experienced veterinarian as soon as possible, or
- Follow the guidance provided by WIRES, as the organisation responsible for wildlife coordination in Tasmania.

If you believe an animal's welfare is being compromised due to delay, misplacement, or inadequate care, escalate immediately to the relevant authority (see Section 4).

### 2. CONCERNS ABOUT VETERINARY ASSESSMENT OR TREATMENT

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If you have concerns about:

- an incorrect or incomplete veterinary assessment
- inadequate treatment (e.g. hydration, pain relief, triage)
- wildlife being assessed by a vet without appropriate wildlife experience

First step:

Raise the concern directly with the veterinary clinic involved, where appropriate.

If unresolved:

Concerns about veterinary conduct or standards of care can be referred to:

The Veterinary Board of Tasmania  
PO Box 909,  
Sandy Bay, TAS, 7006.  
Phone: 0400 848 661  
Email: [registrar@vetboardtas.org.au](mailto:registrar@vetboardtas.org.au)

### 3. CONCERNS ABOUT WILDLIFE COORDINATION OR PLACEMENT

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If concerns relate to:

- delays in placement
- incorrect tier allocation
- species misidentification/inaccurate call sheet information

These issues should be raised directly with WIRES, as the organisation responsible for wildlife coordination at the time of the incident.

Where possible, concerns should be documented clearly and raised promptly.

## 4. REPORTING SUSPECTED ANIMAL WELFARE BREACHES

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If you believe there has been a potential breach of animal welfare standards, including:

- prolonged holding without hydration or care
- failure to escalate injured wildlife appropriately
- systemic issues impacting animal welfare

These concerns should be reported directly to:

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas)

Phone: (03) 6165 4305

Email: [wildlife.services@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:wildlife.services@nre.tas.gov.au)

When reporting, include:

- Your name and contact details
- date and time of the incident
- species (if known)
- location
- summary of events
- names of organisations involved (if applicable)
- photographs or records, where available

Timely reporting supports NRE Tas to investigate effectively.

## 5. WNT'S ROLE

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Wildlife Network Tasmania's role is to:

- support the sector through training, workforce development, and resources

WNT does not:

- manage wildlife coordination
- investigate individual complaints
- act as an intermediary between carers, coordinators, veterinarians, or regulators

## 6. IF YOU'RE UNSURE

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If you are unsure which pathway applies, focus first on:

1. The animal's immediate welfare
2. Escalating concerns to the organisation or authority responsible for the activity in question

Clear documentation and timely escalation are critical to protecting wildlife welfare.