

Is My Property Suitable for Wildlife Release?



Wildlife release is the final and most important stage of rehabilitation. The right environment can mean the difference between survival and struggle.

What makes a property suitable?

- **Habitat** – Areas of bushland, understory, hollows, rock piles, or waterways that provide natural food and shelter.
- **Size & Connectivity** – Larger properties or those linked to bush corridors are ideal, but even smaller blocks may be suitable for some species, especially if they connect to safe habitat.
- **Predator Control** – Minimal risk from roaming cats and dogs. Domestic pets must be contained during release periods.
- **Safety** – No poisons (e.g. 1080, rodenticides, pesticides) and minimal hazards such as unsafe fencing or netting.
- **Low Disturbance** – No hunting activity, and quiet areas with little vehicle traffic, machinery use.
- **Access** – Safe and practical access for wildlife rehabilitators to release animals.

Release types

- **Hard release** – Animals are released directly into habitat with no ongoing support.
- **Soft release** – Animals are released gradually, with short-term food, water, or shelter support to help them adjust.

How suitability is assessed

Wildlife releases are guided by clear assessment criteria, which consider:



- **Ecology** – habitat, food availability, predators, carrying capacity, and disease risks
- **Science & Expertise** – advice from biologists and ecologists

- **Genetics & Range** – ensuring animals are released within their natural range
- **Animal Welfare** – supporting survival and reducing stress
- **Neighbours & Community** – preventing conflict with surrounding land use

If your property meets many of these criteria, it may be a strong candidate for the WNT Land Release Network.



How to Prepare Your Land for Releases

Welcoming wildlife onto your property is a special role. With a little preparation, you can give rehabilitated animals the best chance at a safe return to the wild.

Step 1: Create safe habitat

- Retain or plant native shrubs and trees
- Keep logs, rock piles, and natural cover in place
- Install nest boxes where suitable

Step 2: Manage risks

- Contain cats and restrain dogs during release periods
- Avoid using poisons such as 1080, rodenticides, or pesticides - especially 2nd generation baits.
- Ensure dams or troughs have permanent escape points for birds and other small animals



Step 3: Plan for release type

- **Soft release** – Be open to a pen, aviary, or feeding station for short-term support
- **Hard release** – Ensure nearby dense vegetation for immediate cover

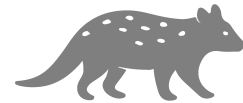
Step 4: Limit disturbance

- Avoid loud machinery, firearms, or heavy activity near release sites during the release period

Step 5: Work with your rehabilitator

- Agree on access times and locations
- Discuss any short-term support the animal may need
- Give consideration to whether you are happy to provide feedback on released animals on your land to WNT or the rehabilitator
- Decide whether you'd like updates on animals released on your land

Be mindful of neighbours



Consider whether nearby properties have free-roaming pets, shooting practices, or poison programs. These may affect whether your land can be approved for releases. Open conversations with neighbours can help reduce conflict and improve outcomes for wildlife.

Every property helps. Whether large or small, your land can play an important role in giving Tasmania's wildlife a safe return to the wild.