

Native ARC

NATIVE ANIMAL REHABILITATION CENTRE INC.



RESCUE



REHABILITATION & RELEASE

About Native ARC

Native ARC (Native Animal Rehabilitation Centre) is a volunteer non-profit organisation set up in 1989 and run by Karen Pryce-Howells, a registered CALM wildlife carer, initially at her Coolbellup home.

In November 1998, Karen leased land adjacent to the Cockburn Wetland Education Centre in Hope Road, Bibra Lake, from the City of Cockburn. This has since been developed to provide a natural setting for the treatment and rehabilitation of all types of animals, birds and reptiles either brought to the centre or collected by a Native ARC volunteer.

It is also an ideal location to release many of the animals when fully recovered. Many of the animals are injured while others are sick, distressed or exhausted (particularly big sea birds such as giant petrels blown off course by storms).

The aim of Native ARC is to rehabilitate sick, injured or orphaned wild life back into their natural environment as soon as possible. Unfortunately some of the animals cannot be returned to the wild because of their injuries. In these cases, they are retained for educational purposes and for breeding. Some of these animals also become foster parents to young injured animals.

Native ARC is unfunded and relies on donations and a small core of dedicated volunteers. There is little funding available for the care of wildlife, but food and medication still has to be supplied.

Native ARC works in conjunction with local vets, rangers, CALM, RSPCA, and Murdoch University Vet School. The adjacent Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre and Yonga Aboriginal Education Centre together with school groups and young adults on work experience provide the centre with a steady source of students.

With your support, Native ARC will be able to continue to care for wildlife. Further details about how you can help can be found on the last page of this brochure or you can contact Native ARC for more information.

How Native ARC Began

KAREN PRYCE-HOWELLS

People often ask how Native ARC came about and the answer really stems back to the day I took my family to Bibra Lake one Sunday for my daughter's birthday 17 years ago.

We were walking around the front of the lake when we spotted a swan just lying on the bank without movement, mouth open and weak. It was a hot day and we thought it was dehydrated, so not knowing any better we placed it in the water for a drink. This is when we knew it was in trouble because it started to drown. We removed it from the water and I told my husband I was going to take it home and help. He suggested we report it to someone else and let him or her deal with it.

Back home, I started to call around for help, but being a Sunday everywhere was closed. I knew I wouldn't rest knowing that the bird needed help and I couldn't just leave it there. I went back to the lake, found it in the same place and took it home.

This is when I decided this was not right. Animals don't get sick "nine to five" Mondays to Fridays. I again started calling around for help and this time I located a lady named Helen in Willetton who was knowledgeable on water birds. She was able to give me some information over the phone on how to care for the swan.

The following day I met Helen and she explained the bird was suffering from botulism, caused by contaminated water, and she showed me how to treat it properly. She also said there were a few carers who looked after animals in their own back yards.

I went to the lake all week, removed some dead birds and took the sick ones home. In a week I was looking after two swans, three sea gulls and two coots. Unfortunately one sea gull and a coot died but I now realised I could help the sick birds in a small way. The other birds survived and I had great reward in seeing them released back into the wild.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Today we receive over 3000 wild life a year and help with thousands of phone calls for advice. We receive animals from vets, CALM, RSPCA, council rangers and the general public. The centre now has over 45 volunteers, who help with the daily cleaning, feeding, pick-ups from vets, rescues of injured wildlife and treatment. We also have work experience students from schools colleges and TAFE working at the centre.



Education & Training Programs

Native ARC runs many different education and training programs open to the public - a course suitable for every interested person, young or old. These include general training in wildlife care, work experience, training for vets and vet students in native animal care and handling, one-off tours and talks for school groups and work for the dole. Specific ongoing courses for school groups can be arranged, depending on availability and individual requirements. Please contact the centre for further details.

How You Can Help Native ARC

Native ARC is run solely by volunteers and supported by donations. It receives no government funding.

DONATIONS:

Any of the following are desperately needed and always appreciated:

- Financial Donations
- Medical supplies
- Animal food
- Blankets
- Bird cages & aviaries
- Hospital boxes
- Aquariums
- Office/education supplies

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER:

We train all our volunteers on-site. We also require volunteers to assist with maintaining the centre grounds. If you think you can provide a service to Native ARC, please don't hesitate to call.



How to Contact Native ARC

Native Animal Rehabilitation Centre

174 Hope Road
Bibra Lake 6163 WA

Open times

Monday to Friday 8 30 am to noon, 3 30pm to 5pm
Saturday 8 30am to noon
Sunday 9 am to noon

To report sick, injured or orphaned native animals, call Karen on her 24-hour emergency hotline 0409102651.

For more information on education and training programs, donations or becoming a volunteer, call (08) 9417 7105 during open times. Alternatively email nativearc@aapt.net.au



What to do with Native Animals

If you hit wildlife on our roads, please stop.

- If the animal is dead, pull it off the verge to prevent further accidents
- If it is a female kangaroo, check the pouch for a joey, if one is found, remove it and keep it warm and quiet and contact Native ARC immediately
- If the animal is alive, cover with a blanket and/or towel, keep it warm and quiet and take it to the nearest vet or call Native ARC
- Please note: If the animal is a snake or large kangaroo/reptile or vicious bird, do not attempt to pick up or approach. Contact Native ARC for assistance immediately.



What to do if your pet injures native wildlife?

- If the animal is alive, cover with a blanket and/or towel, keep it warm and quiet and take it to the nearest vet or call Native ARC
- Again, if it is a snake, large kangaroo/reptile or vicious bird, do not attempt to pick up or approach. Call Native ARC for immediate assistance.



What to do if you find an orphaned animal?

- If it's a baby bird, initially keep watch as the parents may return for it when they feel it is safe to do so. If they don't return, keep it warm and quiet in a dark box and contact Native ARC.
- If you find a dead kangaroo, check the pouch for a joey, if one is found, remove it and keep it warm and quiet and call Native ARC immediately
- For all other orphaned native animals, keep them warm and quiet contact Native ARC immediately

What to do if you find an injured native animal?

- Cover with blanket and/or towel, keep it warm and quiet and take it to the nearest vet or call Native ARC
- Again, if the animal is a snake or large kangaroo/reptile or vicious bird, do not attempt to pick it up or approach it. Call Native ARC for immediate assistance.



For 24-hour emergency contact for sick, injured or orphaned native animals, call Karen on 0409102651.

Please note: Native ARC only has facilities to handle native animals. If you find an injured domestic animal, please take it to your nearest vet or contact the RSPCA for further advice.