



## How you can support Wildlife Rescue

### **1. Become a WRI Rescuer**

In many cases, rescuing a native animal simply involves picking up the animal and taking it to:

- a) the nearest vet (if the caller is unable to do so); or
- b) a member of a licenced group; or
- c) an area suitable for release

depending on circumstances.

Any person can register with Wildlife Rescue as a rescuer (at no cost), without becoming a WRI member. Any person engaged in a rescue on behalf of WRI, member or otherwise, is covered by the Association's Personal Accident insurance policy (see [website](#) for details).

A rescuer is only asked to rescue a native animal (particularly a snake/goanna, bat/flying fox or other potentially-dangerous animal) if appropriately qualified and/or experienced and the person is willing to accept the rescue request. A potential rescuer is only contacted if an animal to be rescued is in the rescuer's area.

A registered rescuer's name, contact details, availability and experience with handling wildlife are included in the Association's database which is available only to the Association's phone coordinators.

Note: Wildlife Rescue Inc is independent of any licenced organisation or Government body. It is not licenced by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to rehabilitate protected native species. Persons wishing to become involved in caring for such animals should contact their local NPWS office.

### **2. Become a WRI Phone Coordinator**

Arguably, the most important role in WRI is that of a phone coordinator. Not only do coordinators provide a vital link in the rescue chain, they are the Association's interface with the general public.

Wildlife Rescue phone coordinators:

- a) are based at home, using their own home computer and phone equipment;
- b) take calls from the public, vets, RSPCA, Councils, NPWS-licenced groups etc via an automated Operations Centre which directs calls to the first available phone coordinator; and
- c) coordinate rescues employing easy-to-use, professionally-written software unique to WRI.

Coordinators use a number of specialist programs (such as Map Maker and a softphone<sup>1</sup>), which are either supplied by Wildlife Rescue or are available online at no cost.

Coordinators are required to undergo training to become familiar with the specialised software. Depending on a coordinator's computer skills, this may be completed in as little as 4-5 hours. Training is provided online, on a one-to-one basis, with technical support available thereafter whenever required.

A personal demonstration of the Wildlife Rescue software can be arranged by emailing the [Admin Officer](#).

It is preferred that coordinators volunteer for a minimum of 12 hours phone duty per week, either one nightshift (7pm to 7am) or two dayshifts (7am to 1pm or 1pm to 7pm). This, however, is subject to negotiation.

For privacy reasons, phone coordinators are required to be members of Wildlife Rescue Inc. There is, however, no membership fee.

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<sup>1</sup> similar to a smartphone but installed on a computer

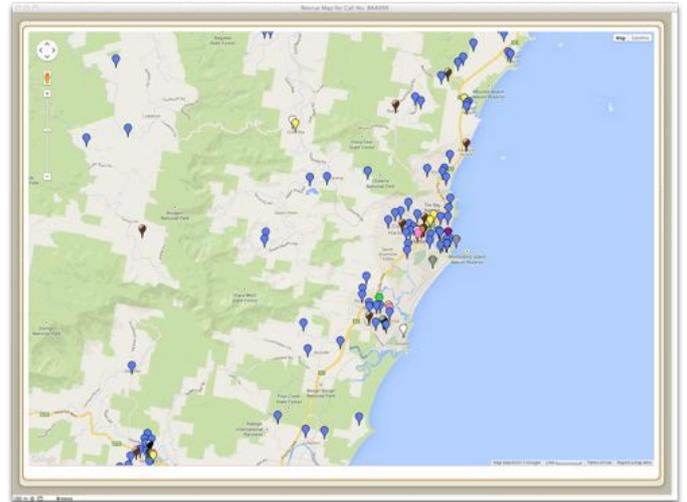
### **3. Become a WRI Researcher**

The core of the Wildlife Rescue system is a computer program (“Map Maker”) which generates a Google-type map for each rescue. The map shows the location of the animal to be rescued, together with nearby persons and organisations who may be able to assist in the rescue.

Currently, these rescue maps show individual rescuers, carers (i.e. persons belonging to a licenced group), vet clinics, NPWS and Council offices, RSPCA shelters, Police stations etc - even tree climbers.

Any of these individuals or organisations can be contacted by phone with a single click of a mouse, i.e. potential rescuers can be rung within seconds of a coordinator accepting a call (whilst the caller is on hold, if desired).

Many hours of internet research are required to maintain the database on which these rescue maps are based. Persons wishing to assist with such research need to be familiar with online search techniques and the use of a spreadsheet such as Excel (or equivalent).



### **4. Become an Admin Assistant**

There are many other supporting activities required to maintain an organisation such as Wildlife Rescue Inc. These range from website development, monitoring social media sites and fundraising through to publicity and cinematography.

If your skills are not being fully utilised and you have time to devote to Wildlife Rescue, there is very likely to be a place for you in WRI.

### **Interested in becoming involved?**

Simply email your name, home address and phone numbers (home and mobile) to the [Admin Officer](#), together with any relevant info about yourself and how you would like to become involved in Wildlife Rescue. A WRI representative will contact you as soon as practicable.

*Note: Wildlife Rescue is a Centrelink-approved organisation for voluntary work.*