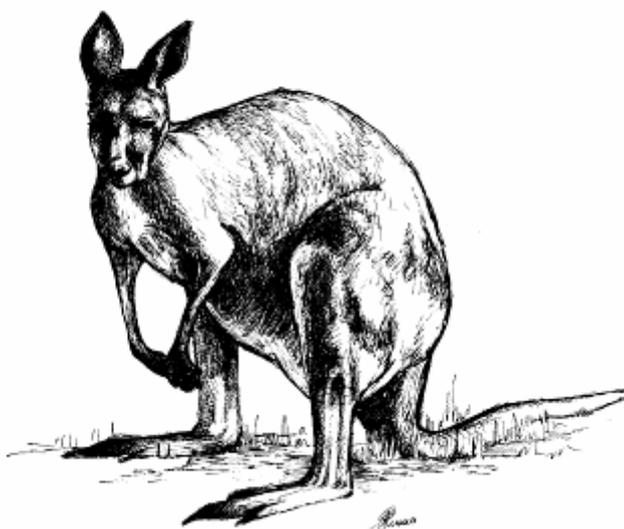




Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

CONDITIONS FOR THE OVERSEAS TRANSFER OF MACROPODS



Effective from November 2008

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CONDITIONS FOR THE OVERSEAS TRANSFER OF MACROPODS¹

PREAMBLE

There are approximately 50 extant species of macropod found in Australia. All members are characterised by powerfully developed hind limbs, long hind feet with and an elongated fourth toe. They are a diverse group of animals that fill a broad ecological role within Australia and make up around 40% of the continent's marsupial fauna.

Macropods are divided into three families, the Potoroidae, the Hypsiprymodontidae and the Macropodidae. The Potoroidae incorporates the smaller macropods and includes the potoroos, bettongs and two of the rat kangaroos. Their diet varies between species but plant roots, tubers and invertebrates tend to be major components. These animals tend to be solitary or form small, loose-knit groups within suitable habitat. The sole extant member of the Hypsiprymodontidae is the tiny musky rat kangaroo, *Hypsiprymodon moschatus*.

The Macropodidae includes the larger species of macropod. Despite general similarities in appearance, they have a wide range of adaptations to suit their lifestyle and diet. The hare wallabies, pademelons, swamp wallaby and quokka are predominantly browsing animals feeding on tender shoots or twigs of shrubs and trees. Kangaroos, typical wallabies, rock wallabies and nail tail wallabies are grazers feeding on herbage and grasses. The members of the Macropodidae tend to be more gregarious and can form large, tight-knit, groups known as mobs. This group includes the red kangaroo, which is the largest living macropod, reaching weights in excess of 90 kg.

Macropod species and individuals are selected for overseas transfer according to approved species management principles. Careful preparation and attention to detail together with the establishment and maintenance of a close liaison between the Australian institution and its overseas counterpart is essential to the success of the macropod transfers and the overall well being of the animals involved.

The following conditions have been formulated to ensure the welfare of macropods being transferred overseas is protected and that the chances of establishing viable macropod populations in those overseas institutions receiving animals from Australia are maximised. The conditions provide the framework within which it is determined whether the statutory requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* have been met regarding transportation, accommodation and care en route to, from and in, approved overseas facilities.

These conditions have been developed in consultation with a number of interested groups including the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA)², in particular, the Monotreme and Marsupial Taxon Advisory Group. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) would like to thank the contributors for the work and effort they put into the compilation of this document.

While DEWHA reserves the right to amend these conditions without prior notice to an affected person, every reasonable effort will be made to discuss the amendment prior to its implementation. For further information, please contact Wildlife Trade Assessments, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia, phone +61 2 6274 2343, fax +61 2 6274 1921, or email wta@environment.gov.au .

¹ This document uses the term "Macropod" to refer to members of the suborder Macropodiformes, otherwise known as Macropoid marsupials. The term "macropod" has been retained for simplicity.

² ARAZPA PO Box 20 Mosman NSW 2088 Australia
Ph 612 9978 4797, Fax 612 9978 4761, email admin@arazpa.org.au

1. SELECTION OF EXPORT STOCK

- 1.1 Macropods to be exported must be fully independent (i.e. not dependent on their mother for food or other resources) unless they meet the conditions outlined in point 1.4.
- 1.2 All macropods to be transferred must have been captive-bred and/or be thoroughly conditioned to captivity. Macropods of wild origin may only be exported where they have not been acquired for the purposes of export.
- 1.3 Due to the increased incidence of animal-human aggression in some hand-raised animals, male macropods that have been hand-raised must not be transferred to overseas institutions.
- 1.4 Female macropods with dependent young may only be selected for transfer if the young will, at the time of transfer, be no older than one quarter of their normal pouch life for the species (i.e. at an early stage of development permanently attached to the nipple and unfurred). The recipient and DEWHA will need to approve the transfer of any such female macropods with dependent young.
- 1.5 DEWHA must be advised of the specific role each animal being exported will play at the receiving institution (i.e. only for display, to become part of a breeding group, etc). Animals that are exported to join a breeding group/program should be as genetically and demographically suitable to that group/program as possible.
- 1.6 Sub-adult macropods generally have a better chance of adapting to new environments than adult macropods. Sub-adults should be chosen in preference to adult animals for export, unless sound species management requirements are identified as reasons for the selection of adults.
- 1.7 The animals selected for shipment must be of a suitable temperament for the receiving institution's enclosure.
- 1.8 Animals must not be selected or exported for the purpose of a circus or similar activity.

2. PRE EXPORT REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Animals to be exported must be physically examined by a veterinary surgeon experienced in the care and treatment of macropods, fourteen to twenty one days prior to the date of export.
- 2.2 A Certificate of Health issued by the examining veterinary surgeon in respect to each animal being exported must be provided to DEWHA before the animal is exported.
- 2.3 The certificate shall indicate:
 - a) Species;

- b) transponder implant number or the details of other identification (e.g. tag number);
- c) age (or where age is unknown, estimated age),
- d) sex;
- e) weight and general condition (as assessed by an experienced macropod keeper or a veterinarian from the exporting zoo). Animals in fair to poor condition cannot be exported;
- f) condition of teeth and gingivae;
- g) the results of an internal and external parasite examination from the individual to be exported. All animals must be treated for common internal and external parasites regardless of the results of the examination and the name and amount of the antiparasitic drugs given;
- h) the results of a complete haematological and serum biochemical examination with comments on interpretation;
- i) that the animal does not have a history of any unresolved infectious disease (a medical record for the animal must be supplied to the receiving institution). Minor and self limiting diseases (such as macropodid pox virus in young macropods) are not necessarily a barrier to export but must be assessed and a judgement made by a veterinarian from the exporting institution who is experienced in macropod health and disease;
- j) the type and amount of any vaccination or other drugs administered to the animal within the two weeks prior to export,;
- k) that the animal is free from clinical signs of disease or abnormalities that may have an impact on its ongoing health and well-being;
- l) that the animal is not caring for or carrying young older than one quarter of the normal pouch life for the species, i.e. the young is at an early stage of development permanently attached to the nipple and unfurred; and
- m) the results of any tests required by the importing country.

2.4 Each animal to be exported must be implanted with a suitable microchip transponder identification system or similarly permanently identified using a passive integrated transponder tag inserted subcutaneously on the dorsal midline between the scapulae. The system used must be universally accepted and be able to be read at both the sending and receiving institutions. The identification system must record, at a minimum, a unique identification number for the animal. Details of the data recorded on the implant must be provided to DEWHA.

2.5 Where possible, pre-shipment crate familiarisation of the macropods should be provided to reduce stress.

3. TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 During transfer to and from the airport, the animals must be accompanied by personnel experienced in macropod care. If long stopovers or delays are anticipated during transfer, provisions should be made to have personnel accompanying the animals on the entire trip.

Note: If it is intended that the accompanying personnel will be staff from the overseas recipient, then approval will be required from DEWHA. This approval will only be given where the recipient currently houses macropods, and the selected personnel are experienced in macropod care..

- 3.2 Macropods must not be removed from the crates or handled in transit unless it is considered essential by the accompanying zoo personnel.
- 3.3 Macropods must not be subjected to extreme temperatures during transport, including plane changes and stopovers.
- 3.4 Noise, and time from crating to destination, must be kept to a minimum.
- 3.5 All relevant medical and species management documentation must accompany the animals being transferred.
- 3.6 At the discretion of the exporting veterinarian, sedation of animals using short or long-acting neuroleptic agents may be employed for macropods being transferred.
- 3.7 A copy of the recommended protocol for release from crates is to accompany the shipment (see 5.2 f)
- 3.8 Sufficient and appropriate food and water must be provided for the animals during the journey.

4. CRATES/BOXES

- 4.1 Macropods must be transferred individually in accordance with IATA standards relevant to that species³
- 4.2 In addition to the relevant IATA standards, the following conditions apply:
- (a) macropod transport containers must not have internal frames.
 - (b) macropod transport containers must not have slatted floors.
 - (c) substrate and food items to be used during the shipment must meet the approval of the importing and transit countries.
 - (d) if Australian native flora, the food to accompany the macropods must be included on the export permit application submitted to DEWHA.
 - (e) sawdust should not be used as a substrate due to risk of inhalation.

³ International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations - Container Requirement 83 and other requirements relevant to species (Edition Current at time of publication - 34th Edition October 2007).

- (f) the padding on the internal ceiling should not be able to be eaten or pulled off. A padded wire ceiling may be used instead of plywood if approved by IATA.

5. RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The exporter should supply to the recipient a diet sheet, including consumption rates, for the macropods being exported a minimum of 8 weeks prior to the shipment.
- 5.2 The recipient must have in place the following facilities and procedures that comply with the relevant ARAZPA Accreditation Standards⁴ at the time of export. The New South Wales Macropod Standards⁵ or other relevant standards should be used as a guide in assessing the suitability of the facility (advise DEWHA if planning to use other standards):
 - (a) an enclosure suitable for ensuring the continued behavioural and biological wellbeing of the animals being transferred; and
 - (b) security arrangements sufficient to prevent the escape of animals, interference or threatening behaviour from other animals or the public and acts of macropod aggression towards members of the public; and
 - (c) adequate provision of feed and water for the species in question; and
 - (d) maintenance of animal hygiene; and
 - (e) procedures and facilities to facilitate macropod capture, separation and treatment; and
 - (f) a release from container protocol to be employed upon the animal's arrival; and
 - (g) access to a veterinary surgeon experienced in the care and treatment of macropods, and
 - (h) adequate knowledge of the husbandry requirements of the species being transferred.
- 5.3 If the recipient does not currently house macropods of the type being transferred, it must send staff to the exporting institution, or to another institution approved by the exporting institution, to be trained in appropriate macropod management. The keeping staff sent for training must be those that will be caring for the animals at the receiving zoo. Both veterinary surgeons and keepers must be trained for a minimum of 2 weeks. Training must include information on biology, diet, breeding, specific macropod diseases as well as keeping, handling and capture myopathy. Training must be satisfactorily completed and signed off by the exporting institution prior to any shipment taking place.

⁴ ARAZPA Accreditation Standards, available at <http://www.arazpa.org.au/Accreditation/default.aspx> (2008)

⁵ Standards for Exhibiting Australian mammals in New South Wales. Available at:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/121537/australian-mammal-exhibition-standards.pdf

6. GENERAL ITEMS

- 6.1 If the species being transferred is listed as a threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (excluding the conservation dependent category), the overseas recipient institution is required to enter into a legally enforceable agreement (Ambassador Agreement). This document is a three-way agreement between the overseas recipient, the Australian exporter and DEWHA and stipulates a number of conditions that must be met and maintained for the duration of the lives of the macropods and any progeny. Threatened species listings may be obtained from DEWHA, or accessed at:
www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/index.html
- 6.2 Arrangements must be made between the recipient and the exporting zoo to ensure the establishment and maintenance of a close liaison and regular communication on matters affecting the management and health of the macropods in the overseas recipient's facilities. This may consist of an exchange of telephone and email contact details between veterinarians and relevant husbandry staff to facilitate the provision of ongoing advice if required. Where there is no common language between keeping or veterinary staff at the recipient and exporting institutions, a translator with knowledge of animal husbandry and veterinary specialist terminology should be available (at the recipients expense).

Appendix A

Checklist for Satisfying Conditions

This checklist is designed for the use of applicants to ensure that all conditions have been met. Items in **bold** indicate where information must be supplied to DEWHA. Required information will also be requested on Supplementary Form G (Macropod Specific Version) to the Permit Application (excepting the Ambassador Agreement, which is referred to on Supplementary Form C).

1. SELECTION OF EXPORT STOCK

Macropods fully independent or meet requirements of 1.4 (1.1)

Captive-bred macropods selected (1.2)

OR

Justification provided for selection of captive conditioned wild origin macropods

No hand-reared males included in export group (1.3)

All macropods free of dependent young (1.4)

OR

Young will be below age thresholds at time of transfer and recipient and DEWHA have agreed to their transfer

Macropods not to form part of a breeding group/program (1.5)

OR

Macropods genetically suitable for placement within the breeding group/program

All macropods for export are sub-adults (1.6)

OR

Justification provided for selection of adults (1.6)

Animals of suitable temperament for receiving enclosure (1.7)

Information on age, origin, temperament and breeding plans provided to DEWHA

2. PRE EXPORT REQUIREMENTS

Veterinary examination performed (2.2)

Certificate of Health, satisfying all relevant conditions, supplied to DEWHA (2.3 & 2.4)

Microchip implanted in each animal to be transferred and microchip data supplied to DEWHA (2.5)

Pre-shipment crate familiarisation provided (2.6)

3. TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS

Information on personnel to accompany macropods supplied to DEWHA (3.1)

Personnel familiar with transit and post-flight conditions (3.2-3.8, 4.1-4.3)

4. CRATES/BOXES

Details of crates supplied to DEWHA (4.1 & 4.2)

No native food species to accompany animals

OR

Native food species for journey included on permit application (4.2d)

5. RECIPIENT - REQUIREMENTS

Exporter has supplied diet sheet to recipient (5.1)

Recipient has suitable enclosure for species being transferred (5.2a)

Recipient has adequate security arrangements (5.2b)

Recipient is capable of maintaining animal hygiene (5.2d)

Recipient has adequate procedures and facilities for capture, separation and treatment (5.2e)

Recipient has release from container protocol in place (5.2f)

Recipient has access to a veterinarian with sufficient macropod experience (5.2g)

OR

Recipient's veterinarian has undertaken training for a minimum of 2 weeks at exporter facility. Training was satisfactorily completed and signed off by exporting institution (5.3)

Recipient has staff with sufficient macropod husbandry and management experience (5.2h)

OR

Recipient's staff has undertaken training for a minimum of 2 weeks at exporter facility. Training was satisfactorily completed and signed off by exporting institution (5.3)

Questions on Security, Facility, Food, Management and Staffing on Supplementary Form G to the permit application has been completed and submitted to DEWHA (5.1-5.3)

Liaison and communication arrangements made between recipient and exporter (5.4)

6. GENERAL ITEMS

Species to be transferred are not listed as threatened under the EPBC Act (6.1)

OR

Ambassador Agreement signed by exporter, recipient and DEWHA