

EAST COAST EXOTIC HAVEN

CAPTIVE-BRED BIRD, REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SURRENDER, INTAKE AND REHOMING POLICY & PROCEDURE

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Jurisdiction: Queensland, Australia

Policy Owner: ECEH Committee / Directors

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1. Purpose

East Coast Exotic Haven (ECEH) operates a captive-bred bird, reptile and amphibian surrender, care and rehoming program in accordance with its charitable purposes.

The purpose of this Policy and Procedure is to establish a consistent, lawful and welfare-focused framework for:

- surrender enquiries;
- lawful acquisition and possession;
- acceptance or refusal of animals;
- ownership and surrender documentation;
- intake assessment;
- quarantine;
- disease prevention and biosecurity;
- veterinary assessment and treatment;
- parasite and disease screening;
- appropriate captive husbandry;
- temporary and long-term care;
- foster placement;
- animal identification;
- record keeping;
- rehoming assessment;
- home and enclosure assessment;
- prospective keeper assessment;
- licence and wildlife authority verification;
- transfer documentation;

- interstate transfers;
- unsuitable rehoming applications;
- sanctuary care;
- lost and found captive animals;
- animal welfare decisions; and
- regulatory referral where required.

The overriding principles are:

Welfare before placement.

Lawful possession before transfer.

Appropriate home before rapid rehoming.

Biosecurity before integration.

Quality of care takes priority over quantity of animals accepted.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to captive-bred:

- birds;
- reptiles; and
- amphibians

accepted, considered for acceptance, fostered, temporarily held, surrendered, transferred or rehomed through ECEH.

It applies to:

- Directors;
- Captive Animal Coordinators;
- authorised captive-animal carers;
- intake volunteers;
- foster carers;
- transport volunteers;
- and other members involved in ECEH's captive animal program.

This Policy does **not** replace ECEH's wildlife rehabilitation framework for free-ranging native wildlife.

3. Relevant Codes of Practice

ECEH recognises the following Queensland Codes as minimum standards relevant to its captive animal program:

Birds

Code of Practice – Aviculture

The Code identifies minimum acceptable standards for keeping and using protected native birds in Queensland and is to be read with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020*, *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* and other relevant legislation.

Its purpose includes providing minimum standards for safe housing and maintenance of native birds, reducing escape, injury and illness, promoting appropriate health and nutrition, and supporting legislative compliance.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Code of Practice – Captive Reptile and Amphibian Husbandry

The Code establishes minimum acceptable standards for the taking, keeping and use of reptiles and amphibians in Queensland and specifically addresses acquisition, sale/gifting, safe transport, records, euthanasia, husbandry, hygiene, thermal biology, water, social behaviour and housing.

It must also be read with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020* and *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

4. Minimum Code of Practice Standard

Compliance with the applicable Queensland Code of Practice is a **minimum requirement**.

ECEH may impose a higher:

- animal-welfare standard;
- quarantine period;
- disease-screening requirement;
- enclosure standard;
- husbandry requirement;
- biosecurity measure;
- placement standard; or
- rehoming criterion

where reasonably necessary to protect:

- the individual animal;
- other animals;
- persons;
- the environment;
- ECEH's legal obligations; or
- the organisation.

ECEH may refuse, delay, restrict or discontinue a surrender, placement or rehoming where the applicable Code requirements cannot be met or where proceeding would create an unacceptable welfare, biosecurity, legal or safety risk.

5. Separation From Wildlife Rehabilitation

ECEH's captive animal program and wildlife rehabilitation program are separate operational streams.

A captive-bred native bird, reptile or amphibian does not become wildlife under rehabilitation merely because it belongs to an Australian native species.

Likewise, free-ranging native wildlife admitted for rehabilitation must not be transferred into ECEH's captive surrender program merely because it:

- cannot readily be released;
- is difficult to rehabilitate;
- has become inconvenient to manage; or
- belongs to a species commonly held in captivity.

The reptile and amphibian Code expressly requires animals taken from the wild under rehabilitation or damage-mitigation authority to be kept separate from captive-bred reptiles and amphibians to minimise disease transmission.

6. Captive-Bred Requirement

This program is intended for **captive-bred animals**.

ECEH must not knowingly process a recently wild-caught bird, reptile or amphibian through the ordinary captive surrender and rehoming pathway unless its legal status has first been established and ECEH is lawfully authorised to do so.

Where origin is uncertain:

1. the animal must be identified;
2. the circumstances of acquisition must be documented;
3. ECEH Directors must be notified;
4. lawful possession must be investigated;
5. regulatory advice must be sought where required; and
6. the animal must not be rehomed until its status has been resolved.

7. Legislative Framework

This Policy operates with:

- *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)*;
- *Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020 (Qld)*;
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)*;
- *Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld)*;
- *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936 (Qld)* where applicable;
- relevant local government requirements;
- current wildlife authority and movement requirements;
- *Code of Practice – Aviculture*;
- *Code of Practice – Captive Reptile and Amphibian Husbandry*;

- and applicable ECEH policies.
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8. Lawful Possession

Before accepting a protected captive-bred animal, ECEH must take reasonable steps to establish that the surrendering person is lawfully entitled to possess and surrender that animal.

The reptile and amphibian Code specifically states that reptiles and amphibians must not be provided to persons lacking the appropriate licence or skills, and that accepting protected wildlife from a person who is not lawfully keeping it is unlawful.

ECEH should therefore obtain, where applicable:

- surrenderer's full details;
 - species;
 - source of animal;
 - date acquired;
 - breeder/seller information;
 - wildlife licence/authority;
 - transaction or movement records;
 - ring, microchip, tag or other identification;
 - purchase or transfer records;
 - and any other relevant evidence.
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9. Species Identification

Species must be correctly identified before final acceptance or rehoming where the species determines:

- licence class;
 - lawful possession;
 - transport requirements;
 - dangerous-species requirements;
 - husbandry;
 - or transfer conditions.
-

Where identification is uncertain, ECEH must seek assistance before completing the legal transaction.

10. Licence and Authority Verification

ECEH must determine whether the species:

- does not require a wildlife authority;
 - requires a standard authority;
 - requires a specialised or higher authority;
-

- or is subject to another restriction.

ECEH should maintain controlled species/licence schedules separately from this policy so they can be updated when Queensland classifications change.

No prospective keeper may receive an animal requiring an authority unless the required authority is valid **before transfer**.

11. Surrender Is Not Guaranteed

ECEH is not required to accept every surrender request.

Acceptance may depend upon:

- lawful status;
- species;
- number of animals;
- available quarantine space;
- enclosure capacity;
- animal health;
- infectious-disease risk;
- dangerous-species requirements;
- member competency;
- veterinary resources;
- likely long-term care;
- rehoming prospects;
- and organisational capacity.

12. Emergency Welfare Cases

ECEH may prioritise animals where circumstances involve:

- abandonment;
- neglect;
- owner hospitalisation;
- owner death;
- domestic violence;
- homelessness;
- natural disaster;
- unsafe housing;
- significant illness;
- or another urgent welfare concern.

13. Surrender Enquiry

The initial enquiry should record:

- surrenderer details;
- species;
- scientific name where known;
- animal name;
- sex;
- age;
- number of animals;
- captive-bred status;
- source;
- licence/authority status;
- identification;
- reason for surrender;
- housing;
- diet;
- veterinary history;
- current health;
- behaviour;
- breeding history;
- disease history;
- recent animal acquisitions;
- and urgency.



14. Surrender Agreement

Animals accepted by ECEH must ordinarily be accompanied by a completed **ECEH Captive Animal Surrender Form**.

The surrenderer must declare, to the best of their knowledge:

- lawful ownership/possession;
- accurate animal identity;
- relevant licence information;
- known medical history;

- disease history;
 - behaviour;
 - bite/aggression history;
 - and other information reasonably relevant to animal welfare or biosecurity.
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15. Permanent Surrender

Unless ECEH expressly agrees in writing to a temporary arrangement:

Surrender is permanent.

Following lawful transfer, the former keeper does not retain authority to:

- reclaim the animal;
 - choose its future keeper;
 - determine medical treatment;
 - prevent lawful welfare decisions;
 - demand breeding;
 - require ongoing updates;
 - or impose conditions inconsistent with ECEH's welfare responsibilities.
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16. Intake Assessment

Every accepted animal must receive an initial intake assessment appropriate to the species.

This should assess:

- identification;
- weight/body condition;
- hydration;
- eyes;
- mouth;
- skin/scales/feathers;
- respiration;
- mobility;
- wounds;
- parasites;
- faeces/droppings where relevant;
- appetite;
- behaviour;
- temperature/environmental requirements;

- and urgent veterinary needs.

An ECEH assessment does not replace veterinary diagnosis.

17. Quarantine Principle

All surrendered animals must be treated as a potential biosecurity risk until assessed and cleared.

New arrivals must not immediately enter established animal collections.

Quarantine must provide:

- physical separation;
 - appropriate species-specific conditions;
 - separate food/water equipment;
 - appropriate cleaning equipment;
 - hygiene controls;
 - restricted handling;
 - and records.
-

18. Bird Quarantine

The Aviculture Code recommends that newly acquired birds be quarantined for **21 days** before introduction into established aviaries or cages.

ECEH therefore adopts:

A minimum routine quarantine period of 21 days for surrendered birds unless veterinary or biosecurity circumstances require a longer period.

Quarantine may be extended due to:

- clinical signs;
 - disease exposure;
 - unknown history;
 - test results;
 - parasite concerns;
 - emergency animal disease risk;
 - or veterinary recommendation.
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19. Reptile and Amphibian Quarantine

The Captive Reptile and Amphibian Husbandry Code requires newly acquired reptiles and amphibians to be quarantined from other captive reptiles or amphibians for a **minimum period of seven days**.

ECEH therefore requires:

A minimum seven-day quarantine for reptiles and amphibians, with ECEH permitted to require a longer risk-based quarantine period.

A seven-day period is a minimum and does not automatically constitute ECEH biosecurity clearance.

20. Reptile and Amphibian Parasite Inspection

The Code requires newly acquired reptiles and amphibians to be inspected thoroughly for parasites under bright light **within 24 hours of acquisition**.

ECEH intake procedures must therefore include examination for:

- mites;
- ticks;
- skin abnormalities;
- raised scales;
- rubbing;
- lesions;
- and other signs of infestation.

Where parasites or illness are detected, veterinary advice must be obtained and contaminated housing/equipment appropriately managed.

21. Amphibian-Specific Biosecurity

Amphibians may require particularly careful biosecurity because of their:

- permeable skin;
- environmental sensitivity;
- water-dependent husbandry;
- susceptibility to infectious disease;
- and sensitivity to chemical contamination.

ECEH amphibian housing and quarantine must use species-appropriate:

- water quality;
- temperature;
- humidity;
- substrate;
- hygiene;
- and handling controls.

Gloves and cleaning products must be appropriate to amphibian sensitivity.

22. Wild and Captive Amphibian Separation

Wild amphibians held under wildlife rescue or rehabilitation arrangements must not be mixed with captive-bred amphibians.

Dedicated:

- containers;
- water;
- substrate;
- equipment;
- cleaning supplies;
- and quarantine areas

should be used to reduce cross-contamination.

23. Veterinary Escalation

Veterinary assessment must be arranged where an animal demonstrates:

- serious or persistent illness;
 - significant injury;
 - respiratory disease;
 - neurological abnormality;
 - significant weight loss;
 - dehydration;
 - abnormal shedding;
 - severe skin disease;
 - parasite infestation;
 - persistent refusal to eat;
 - severe diarrhoea;
 - vomiting/regurgitation;
 - abnormal discharge;
 - or other significant deterioration.
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24. Reptile and Amphibian Health Monitoring

The Code stresses the importance of understanding normal appearance and behaviour and notes that health or adaptation problems must be identified early. It identifies prolonged food refusal, repeated escape attempts, snout abrasion, passivity or torpor as potential indicators of failure to adapt or poor welfare.

ECEH carers must therefore maintain species-appropriate observational records.

25. Bird Health Monitoring

Bird carers must monitor:

- appetite;
- drinking;
- droppings;
- posture;
- breathing;
- activity;
- body condition;
- feather condition;
- behaviour;
- and signs of injury or illness.

Sick birds must be isolated from healthy birds where appropriate and veterinary advice sought where illness persists or significant concerns arise.

26. Emergency Animal Disease

Any suspected emergency animal disease must be managed under:

- ECEH Biosecurity Policy;
- Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan;
- and any relevant disease-specific annex.

Rehoming and routine animal movement must cease where disease investigation or quarantine requires it.

27. Captive Bird Husbandry

Birds must receive:

- species-appropriate food;
- clean water;
- suitable housing;
- weather protection;
- predator protection;
- appropriate perches;
- sufficient space;
- hygiene;
- and appropriate social/environmental conditions.

The Aviculture Code requires adequate species-appropriate food at normal feeding times, clean water and food/water containers positioned to minimise contamination.

28. Captive Reptile and Amphibian Husbandry

Reptiles and amphibians must receive husbandry appropriate to their:

- thermal biology;
- water requirements;
- humidity;
- diet;
- photoperiod;
- species behaviour;
- social system;
- enclosure needs;
- and health.

The reptile/amphibian Code notes that species knowledge is critical for early recognition of distress and disease.

29. Thermal Requirements

Reptiles and amphibians rely heavily on environmental conditions for thermoregulation.

Housing must provide appropriate:

- thermal gradients;
- basking opportunities where required;
- cool retreats;
- heating controls;
- and monitoring.

Heating equipment must be installed so animals cannot sustain burns.

30. Water and Humidity

Water requirements vary considerably between reptile and amphibian species.

Housing must provide the correct:

- drinking access;
- immersion opportunity where required;
- aquatic environment where required;
- humidity;
- drainage;
- and water hygiene.

The Code specifically recognises species variation in water and humidity requirements and requires keepers to understand those requirements before keeping the animal.

31. Social Compatibility

Animals must not be housed together merely because they are the same species.

The reptile/amphibian Code requires management that allows normal social behaviour and prevents injury, aggression and deprivation affecting subordinate animals.

ECEH must consider:

- solitary versus social species;
- sex;
- size;
- age;
- dominance;
- feeding competition;
- breeding behaviour;
- and individual temperament.

32. Handling

Handling must be kept to the level appropriate to welfare, husbandry and safe management.

The reptile/amphibian Code warns that excessive handling can prevent adaptation and adversely affect welfare.

ECEH carers and prospective keepers must not treat reptiles or amphibians as props or require inappropriate performances or handling.

33. Transport

All captive animals must be transported in a way that minimises:

- stress;
- injury;
- escape;
- temperature extremes;
- incompatible mixing;
- and unnecessary transit time.

The Aviculture Code states that careful planning should minimise transport stress and transit time and requires appropriately labelled transport containers.

The reptile/amphibian Code likewise requires secure, injury-free containers and emphasises minimising time in transit.

34. Rehoming Eligibility

An animal may proceed to rehoming assessment only when:

- legal status is resolved;
 - applicable quarantine is completed;
 - major disease concerns are addressed;
 - significant health issues have been assessed;
 - the animal is stable enough for transfer;
 - behaviour has been assessed as far as reasonably possible;
 - and relevant records are available.
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35. Transfer of Sick or Injured Reptiles and Amphibians

The reptile/amphibian Code states that a protected reptile or amphibian showing signs of illness or injury must not simply be sold, given away, bought or accepted without the required written approval.

Accordingly, before permanently rehoming an animal that remains clinically affected, ECEH must determine:

- whether transfer is lawful;
 - whether regulatory approval is required;
 - whether veterinary treatment should be completed first;
 - and whether transfer is in the animal's welfare interests.
-

36. Prospective Keeper Assessment

ECEH will assess a prospective keeper against:

- legal authority;
 - species knowledge;
 - experience;
 - housing;
 - security;
 - diet;
 - thermal/environmental requirements;
 - enrichment;
 - social needs;
 - quarantine;
 - other animals;
 - veterinary access;
 - household suitability;
 - long-term financial capacity;
-

- and animal-specific needs.

A desire to own the animal is not sufficient.

37. Code-Based Rehoming Standard

ECEH will not knowingly place an animal with a person who cannot meet the applicable Code of Practice requirements.

The reptile/amphibian Code specifically states that animals must not be provided to persons lacking the appropriate licence or skills necessary for proper care.

ECEH applies the same welfare principle to all captive animals within its program.

38. Home Assessment

ECEH may require:

- photographs;
- enclosure measurements;
- video inspection;
- proof of heating/lighting;
- thermostat information;
- quarantine information;
- water/humidity arrangements;
- security measures;
- rental permission;
- or physical inspection

before approving a home.

39. Bird Home Assessment

For birds, assessment should consider:

- cage/aviary size;
- construction;
- security;
- shelter;
- exposure to weather;
- perches;
- enrichment;
- social needs;
- food/water placement;

- predator exposure;
- and suitability for the particular species.

The Aviculture Code recognises permanent and temporary forms of housing and contains specific minimum enclosure schedules.

40. Reptile Home Assessment

For reptiles, assessment should consider:

- enclosure dimensions;
- escape prevention;
- heating;
- thermostat;
- thermal gradient;
- humidity;
- UV/light where appropriate;
- substrate;
- hides;
- water;
- feeding;
- secure locks;
- and dangerous-species controls where relevant.

41. Amphibian Home Assessment

For amphibians, assessment should additionally consider:

- species-appropriate water quality;
- aquatic/terrestrial balance;
- humidity;
- ventilation;
- substrate;
- temperature;
- chemical exposure;
- hygiene;
- escape prevention;
- and ability to maintain appropriate live-food or diet arrangements.

42. Dangerous Species

ECEH may refuse surrender or rehoming of dangerous species where:

- lawful authority is unavailable;
- ECEH lacks appropriate facilities;
- suitably trained personnel are unavailable;
- transport cannot be undertaken safely;
- or risk is unreasonable.

Dangerous animals must only be transferred to appropriately licensed and competent persons.

43. Best-Match Principle

ECEH will seek the **most appropriate available home**, not simply the first application received.

Consideration may include:

- keeper experience;
- animal behaviour;
- enclosure;
- household;
- other animals;
- social needs;
- veterinary access;
- financial preparedness;
- and long-term stability.



44. Rehoming Application

Prospective keepers must ordinarily complete an:

ECEH Rehoming Application & Home Assessment Form.

ECEH may decline an application where:

- information is incomplete;
 - information is false;
 - licence requirements are not met;
 - enclosure is unsuitable;
 - animal welfare concerns exist;
 - or another applicant is better suited to the individual animal.
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45. Rehoming / Transfer Agreement

An approved permanent placement must be documented through the:

ECEH Captive Animal Rehoming / Transfer Agreement.

The agreement should include:

- animal identification;
- keeper details;
- authority details;
- movement/transaction details;
- health information;
- behaviour;
- husbandry;
- any placement conditions;
- and acknowledgement of the keeper's responsibilities.

46. No Release to the Wild

Captive-bred surrendered:

- birds;
- reptiles; and
- amphibians

must not be released to the wild by ECEH members merely because they are Australian native species.

Any action involving release must have a specific lawful basis and must not be undertaken through the ordinary captive rehoming program.

East Coast Exotic Haven

47. Records

ECEH must maintain appropriate captive-animal records.

For reptiles and amphibians, the Code notes that licence holders must record relevant births, deaths and transactions and recommends retaining information regarding origin, acquisition, species, sex, age, identifying features, condition, feeding and behaviour.

ECEH's Captive Animal Register should record:

- ECEH ID;
- species;
- scientific name;
- sex;
- age;
- surrenderer;
- date surrendered;

- origin;
- licence information;
- identification;
- health;
- quarantine;
- veterinary treatment;
- disease testing;
- foster location;
- transfer history;
- rehoming;
- sanctuary;
- death;
- or other final outcome.

48. Veterinary Records

Veterinary and diagnostic information relevant to future welfare must accompany the animal's ECEH file.

Relevant information should be disclosed to the new keeper where necessary for ongoing care.

ECEH must not knowingly conceal:

- chronic disease;
- ongoing medication;
- serious previous illness;
- bite/aggression history;
- significant disability;
- or specialist husbandry needs.

49. Lost and Found Captive Animals

A found captive bird, reptile or amphibian is **not automatically surrendered property**.

ECEH should make reasonable attempts to identify the lawful keeper before permanent rehoming.

Evidence may include:

- ring;
- microchip;
- identifying markings;
- photographs;
- licence records;

- transaction records;
- veterinary history;
- behavioural details;
- or other credible proof.

Sensitive identification information should not be publicly disclosed where doing so would undermine owner verification.

50. Foster Care

ECEH may place animals with authorised foster carers where appropriate.

Foster carers must:

- hold any authority required to lawfully possess the species;
 - follow ECEH husbandry and biosecurity requirements;
 - maintain records;
 - obtain veterinary care where required;
 - not independently rehome the animal;
 - not release the animal;
 - not breed the animal without written ECEH authority;
 - and return or transfer the animal when directed.
-

51. Sanctuary

Where a suitable permanent home cannot be identified, ECEH may provide or arrange sanctuary where:

- lawful authority exists;
 - appropriate facilities are available;
 - capacity exists;
 - animal welfare can be maintained;
 - and long-term care is reasonably sustainable.
-

52. No-Kill-for-Space Principle

ECEH will not euthanasia an otherwise healthy captive animal solely because:

- rehoming is taking time;
 - enclosure space is desired for another animal;
 - the animal is older;
 - the animal is considered less adoptable;
 - or surrender numbers have increased.
-

However, this does not prevent humane euthanasia where required for genuine welfare reasons.

53. Euthanasia

Where an animal is suffering to an extent that continued life is unreasonable, recovery cannot reasonably be expected, or appropriate treatment is unavailable, euthanasia may be an appropriate welfare decision.

Both attached Codes recognise euthanasia as appropriate in serious welfare circumstances.

ECEH's preferred pathway for captive animals is veterinary euthanasia.

ECEH's own Euthanasia Policy and current legal requirements must also be followed.

54. Death in Care

Deaths must be recorded.

Unexpected, unusual or potentially infectious deaths must be:

- reported to the appropriate ECEH Coordinator/Director;
 - assessed for biosecurity significance;
 - referred for veterinary investigation where appropriate;
 - and retained for testing where directed.
-

55. Biosecurity

ECEH captive facilities must maintain appropriate separation from:

- wild rehabilitation animals;
- newly admitted animals;
- sick animals;
- animals under quarantine;
- and established captive populations.

Equipment sharing must be minimised and appropriate cleaning/disinfection used.

56. Capacity

ECEH will not accept captive animals beyond its ability to provide appropriate care.

Capacity includes:

- enclosure space;
 - quarantine space;
 - staffing;
 - expertise;
 - veterinary resources;
-

- finance;
- equipment;
- and long-term placement options.

ECEH may temporarily close intake for a species or group where capacity is reached.

57. Interstate Rehoming

An interstate transfer must comply with requirements of:

- Queensland;
- the receiving State or Territory;
- applicable wildlife licences;
- movement permits;
- and transport conditions.

The reptile/amphibian Code specifically recognises that interstate movement is subject to both jurisdictions' laws.

58. Animal Behaviour and Adaptation

Animals must be monitored following surrender for their response to:

- quarantine;
- new enclosure;
- new diet;
- handling;
- social conditions;
- and environmental change.

Persistent behavioural signs of stress must be investigated rather than dismissed as "bad behaviour."

59. Breeding

Animals surrendered to ECEH are not automatically made available for breeding.

ECEH may prohibit breeding where:

- history is unknown;
- health is uncertain;
- genetic risk exists;
- welfare may be compromised;
- reproduction is inconsistent with ECEH's rehoming objectives;
- or there is no legitimate welfare/conservation purpose.

60. Donations and Rehoming

Financial contribution does not create entitlement to:

- surrender acceptance;
- a particular animal;
- expedited placement;
- decision-making authority;
- or approval of an unsuitable home.

Rehoming decisions must remain welfare-based.

61. Public Advertising

Rehoming advertisements should accurately identify:

- species;
- relevant age/sex where known;
- licence requirements;
- important behavioural characteristics;
- major husbandry requirements;
- and ECEH's application process.

Private surrender information must not be unnecessarily disclosed.

62. Privacy

Personal information concerning surrenderers, foster carers and applicants must be managed under ECEH's Privacy Policy.

Licence numbers, addresses, veterinary records linked to persons and sensitive surrender circumstances must not be publicly distributed.

63. Immediate Protective Action

Where an animal under ECEH's captive program is exposed to an immediate welfare, biosecurity or safety risk, ECEH may take temporary protective action including:

- transfer;
- quarantine;
- closure of a foster location to new animals;
- veterinary assessment;
- restriction of handling;
- removal from an unsafe enclosure;

- recovery of ECEH-controlled animals;
- or other reasonable action.

Protective action is not, by itself, formal disciplinary action.

64. Member Non-Compliance

Serious potential breaches include:

- knowingly keeping an ECEH animal unlawfully;
- falsifying licence details;
- releasing captive animals into the wild;
- unauthorised sale or transfer;
- concealing infectious disease;
- deliberately bypassing quarantine;
- refusing necessary veterinary care;
- serious neglect;
- unauthorised breeding;
- falsifying animal records;
- or privately profiting from an ECEH animal.

Formal disciplinary action must proceed under ECEH's Constitution and disciplinary framework.

65. SURRENDER PROCEDURE

ENQUIRY RECEIVED

↓

IDENTIFY ANIMAL

Bird / Reptile / Amphibian

↓

CONFIRM CAPTIVE-BRED STATUS

↓

IDENTIFY LEGAL / LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

↓

VERIFY LAWFUL POSSESSION

↓

ASSESS ECEH CAPACITY

↓

PRELIMINARY HEALTH / BIOSECURITY REVIEW

↓

ACCEPT / WAITLIST / REFER / DECLINE

↓

COMPLETE SURRENDER FORM

↓

TRANSFER INTO ECEH CARE

↓

BEGIN INTAKE & QUARANTINE PROCEDURE

66. BIRD INTAKE PROCEDURE

BIRD ARRIVES

↓

IDENTITY / LEGAL STATUS CONFIRMED

↓

INTAKE ASSESSMENT

↓

QUARANTINE

Minimum routine ECEH period: 21 days

↓

MONITOR:

- appetite;
- weight;
- droppings;
- respiration;
- behaviour;
- plumage;
- hydration.

↓

CLINICAL CONCERN?

YES → isolate / veterinary assessment / testing

↓

QUARANTINE CLEARANCE

↓

CAPTIVE CARE / FOSTER / REHOMING STREAM



67. REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN INTAKE PROCEDURE

ANIMAL ARRIVES



IDENTITY / LEGAL STATUS CONFIRMED



INTAKE ASSESSMENT



QUARANTINE

Minimum Code requirement: 7 days



PARASITE INSPECTION WITHIN 24 HOURS



ASSESS:

- appetite;
- hydration;
- faeces;
- skin/scales;
- shedding;
- behaviour;
- weight;
- temperature/humidity needs;
- signs of disease.



PARASITES OR ILLNESS?

YES → veterinary assessment + biosecurity action



QUARANTINE PERIOD EXTENDED WHERE REQUIRED



CLEARANCE



CAPTIVE CARE / FOSTER / REHOMING STREAM

68. REHOMING PROCEDURE

ANIMAL MEDICALLY/BIOSECURITY CLEARED



DETERMINE LICENCE REQUIREMENT



ADVERTISE / SEEK SUITABLE HOME



APPLICATION RECEIVED



REHOMING APPLICATION & HOME ASSESSMENT



VERIFY:

- legal authority;
- experience;
- enclosure;
- diet;
- environmental controls;
- biosecurity;
- veterinary access;
- household suitability.



SUITABLE?

NO → decline / continue placement search

YES ↓

COMPLETE REHOMING / TRANSFER AGREEMENT



COMPLETE MOVEMENT / TRANSACTION REQUIREMENTS



PROVIDE HEALTH & HUSBANDRY HANDOVER



TRANSFER ANIMAL



UPDATE CAPTIVE ANIMAL REGISTER

69. UNSUITABLE HOME PROCEDURE

Where an application is not suitable:

1. do not transfer the animal;
2. document objective reasons;
3. advise the applicant that the application was unsuccessful;
4. identify whether modifications could make the home suitable;
5. allow reassessment where reasonable;
6. continue seeking an appropriate placement.

ECEH is not required to compromise its welfare standards in order to secure a placement.

70. RETURN / FAILED PLACEMENT PROCEDURE

Where a new keeper advises they can no longer maintain an ECEH-rehomed animal:

1. gather information regarding circumstances;
2. establish immediate welfare risk;
3. verify current legal status;
4. assess ECEH capacity;
5. determine whether return, foster placement, alternative rehoming or another lawful option is appropriate;
6. if returned, treat the animal as a new biosecurity intake;
7. reinstate quarantine where appropriate;
8. update ECEH records.

ECEH cannot guarantee immediate return capacity.

71. Responsibilities

ECEH Directors

Responsible for:

- governance;
- serious legal issues;
- regulatory contact;
- dangerous species;
- serious biosecurity matters;
- major welfare concerns;
- and approval of exceptional cases.

Captive Animal Coordinator

Responsible for:

- surrender assessment;
- species/legal classification;
- intake;
- quarantine oversight;
- foster allocation;
- rehoming assessment;
- documentation;
- and registry oversight.

Captive Animal Carers/Foster Carers

Responsible for:

- appropriate husbandry;
- daily monitoring;
- biosecurity;
- veterinary escalation;
- records;
- and compliance with ECEH instructions.

Prospective/New Keeper

Responsible for:

- accurate application information;
- obtaining required authority;
- establishing appropriate facilities;
- accepting long-term responsibility;
- and maintaining applicable Code and welfare standards after transfer.

72. Controlled Supporting Documents

This Policy should operate with the following ECEH documents:

- **Captive Animal Surrender Form**
- **Captive Animal Intake & Quarantine Form**
- **Rehoming Application & Home Assessment Form**
- **Captive Animal Rehoming / Transfer Agreement**
- **Captive Animal Register**
- **Bird Quarantine Monitoring Record**
- **Reptile & Amphibian Quarantine Monitoring Record**
- current wildlife authority/species schedules

- veterinary and diagnostic records.

73. Key Program Rules

BIRDS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ECEH CAPTIVE PROGRAM

CAPTIVE-BRED AND WILD REHABILITATION ANIMALS MUST REMAIN SEPARATE

VERIFY LAWFUL POSSESSION BEFORE ACCEPTANCE

VERIFY THE CORRECT WILDLIFE AUTHORITY BEFORE REHOMING

BIRDS — ROUTINE MINIMUM QUARANTINE 21 DAYS

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS — CODE MINIMUM QUARANTINE 7 DAYS

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS MUST BE CHECKED FOR PARASITES WITHIN 24 HOURS

ECEH MAY REQUIRE LONGER QUARANTINE THAN THE CODE MINIMUM

SICK OR INJURED ANIMALS REQUIRE APPROPRIATE VETERINARY MANAGEMENT

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE BOTH THE LEGAL AUTHORITY AND THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE PROPER CARE

PERMIT-FREE DOES NOT MEAN WELFARE-FREE

CAPTIVE-BRED ANIMALS ARE NOT TO BE RELEASED INTO THE WILD

BEST HOME — NOT FASTEST HOME

HEALTHY ANIMALS ARE NOT EUTHANASED SIMPLY BECAUSE A HOME HAS NOT BEEN FOUND

WELFARE EUTHANASIA REMAINS AVAILABLE WHERE NECESSARY TO PREVENT SUFFERING

74. Review

This Policy should be reviewed:

- every two years;
- whenever the *Nature Conservation Act* or *Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation* changes;
- whenever Queensland wildlife-licence classifications change;
- whenever either relevant Code of Practice is replaced or amended;
- following a significant biosecurity event;
- following a serious welfare or rehoming incident;
- or where ECEH substantially changes the captive-animal program.