

SOWFI Volunteer Subsidy Program

Introduction

The SOWFI Volunteer Subsidy Program (VSP) is designed to reimburse wildlife volunteers for some of the expenses they incur in an equitable and fun way. The SOWFI VSP will not subsidize for the time or expertise of our volunteers which is most valuable and valued by the organization and our wildlife.

How it Works

A wildlife volunteer accrues points for every rescue and every night they have an animal in care based on the data entered into the SOWFI database. Every month when the volunteer receives a report of "Animals in Care" to ensure they maintain records, they will also receive the total of their points accrued/spent to date.

Definitions

Rescue – A "Rescue" is the single entry of data into the SOWFI database for any of the following:

- Responding to a SOWFI call out to transport an animal/s from "A" to "B"
- Responding to a SOWFI call out to contain/rescue an animal/s and take to a carer, vet or release within 24 hours
- Responding to a call out from another organization for either of the above
- Finding an animal/s in distress and containing, assessing and transporting to vet or carer

An entry can also be made for a call out if on arrival the animal is deceased, escaped, does not need rescuing.

Nights in Care – every night that a carer has an animal in care is counted as 1 night. For example, the animal arrives into care on the 11th May and is transferred to another carer of the 18th May, the TNiC (total nights in care) = 7

The receiving carer receives the animal on the 18th May and releases it on the 28th May, the TNiC = 10

Point System

Initially, and subject to review, the points accrue are as follows:

Rescue = 5 points

Care per night/per animal = 1 point

1 point = 20c

For transparency, the formula for calculating points is:

$$\text{Points} = \text{TNiC}_1 + \text{TNiC}_2 + \text{TNiC}_{3\dots} + (\text{TNR} \times 5)$$

Where,

TNiC_x is the Tonight Nights in Care for each animal

TNR is the total number of rescues in the month

Example 1:

In one month, a wildlife volunteer cares for 3 animals for the entire duration of that month (which has 30 nights). The wildlife volunteer also conducts 5 rescues in the month.

Using the above information, the points earned = 30 + 30 + 30 + (5 x 5) = 115 points

Value of points 115 x .2 = \$23

Example 2:

In one month, a wildlife volunteer has 1 animal in care for 3 nights, 1 animal in care for 7 nights and 1 animal in care for 22 nights. The wildlife volunteer also conducts 3 rescues in the month.

Using the above information, the points earned = 3 + 7 + 22 + (3 x 5) = 47 points

Value of points 47 x .2 = \$9.40

Redeeming Points

A shop page is available for volunteers to redeem points simply by completing the online form and submitting. Regularly ordered items will appear here.

<https://www.save-our-wildlife.org.au/volunteer-shop.html>

The order is completed by the Property Officer and points redeemed deducted from the total. If there is a specific item a volunteer would like that is not listed this can be requested via the form.

Maintaining Accurate Data

It is important to enter rescues and update animal records promptly. We all get busy however so monthly reports will be sent to each volunteer listing animals in care. Volunteers have one week to update these reports to reflect the true situation. Team Leaders will also be checking their team records each month. Any later adjustments will reflect in the new points total.

What to Record

As a SOWFI volunteer we value every rescue and animal you keep in your care, and wish to support you in every way which includes assisting to cover some expenses. For that reason we encourage you to enter the data regardless of which communication channel the rescue/animal came to you. There is a field you can complete "Referring Organisation" to ensure there is no "double up" of information, should there ever be a sharing of data between organisations. The more information we have on the state of our wildlife, the more power we have to advocate on their behalf for population sustainability.

Trouble-Shooting the Database

If you are having any issues entering data, try another browser and if that still doesn't work contact:

Animal Records – Daphne – ppdaphne@gmail.com

People Records – Sen – sslin119@gmail.com

Our Values

It is expected that our volunteers will always act in accordance with our team values, ensuring their data is as accurate as possible for the benefit of future reporting and research.

Our values are

1. We are committed to the care and conservation of our native wildlife & habitat
2. We will advocate on behalf of our native wildlife
3. Our decisions are always made in the best interests of the animal
4. We apply evidence-based knowledge and skill in our animal practices
5. We act with a high degree of compassion, personal responsibility, accountability and respect
6. We see value in collaborating with like-minded people and organisations

Updates

The SOWFI board reserves the right to update the Terms and Conditions of the Volunteer Subsidy Program (VSP) as it sees fit at any time to continually improve the program to ensure equity across volunteers and species.