

Saving Native Species in WA: Strong collaborations are key.

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One of the key ways in which Perth Zoo makes meaningful contributions to wildlife conservation is through our work with threatened species native to Western Australia. The Zoo has a dedicated Native Species Breeding Program (NSBP) specifically for this purpose, and also contributes to the *in-situ* conservation of native species through its general animal collection whenever possible. The Veterinary Department directly contributes to the recovery of several threatened native species by providing veterinary care for sick and injured wild animals and collecting relevant data. The Zoo also facilitates other research into threatened WA native species and provides support for conservation-related field work.

Strong partnerships with relevant state wildlife agencies, Recovery Teams, local wildlife rescue centres and universities are critical to this work. As a small organisation with a limited budget, pro-actively developing these relationships and identifying opportunities to work together has been a key focus in recent decades. This presentation will discuss how Perth Zoo has fostered and maintained these relationships, and provide examples of some of the collaborative conservation projects that the Zoo has developed.