

Conditions Requiring Euthanasia

All Species

- Open fractures (exception in phalanges in bats)
- Severe eye damage (exception in unilateral eye damage in koalas)
- Multiple fractures to multiple limbs
- Unviable joeys – must refer to viability guidelines for orphaned joeys
- Non-native/introduced species

Please note these are not the only conditions requiring euthanasia in wildlife, they are just the conditions where a euthanasia decision can be made objectively, without having wildlife specialist experience.

Adult Macropods

- Fractures of any kind
- Head trauma with severe neurological dysfunction
- Emaciated
- Oral Necrobacillosis (lumpy jaw)
- Inability to rise and move away from people (caused by any underlying condition)
- Severely compromised vision (e.g. bilateral cataracts, eye trauma)
- History/signs of advanced myopathy:
 - Acute: overheating, excess salivation/forearm licking, trembling, seizures, panting.
 - More chronic cases: weakness, stiff gait, total collapse.

Macropod Joeys

- Fractures near joints in hindlimbs
- Severe bruising to head/face
- Extensive bruising to body (unfurred joeys)
- Signs of myopathy (See Adult Macropods)

Bats

- Agonal breathing, dilated pupils and blue mucous membranes
- Fractures to wing near to joint

Koalas

Ideally all koalas would have a veterinary assessment at a wildlife specialist hospital prior to euthanasia, but the following conditions warrant immediate euthanasia (in addition to those listed for all species):

- Agonal breathing, blue mucous membranes, arching/struggling to breathe
- Multiple fractures to jaw
- Visible and clear spinal fracture

Reptiles & Amphibians

- Emaciation with no evident cause, and the animal is flat/moribund.
- Clear fracture to spine with no use past fracture site.
- Wounds penetrating coelom or with internal organs protruding.

Birds

- Fractures to wing near to joint
- Psittacine Beak and Feather virus
- Severe Pox virus infection – oral cavity affected, large lesions on eyelids obscuring vision, distortion of nostrils, lesions to multiple areas of body.

Other Mammals

Possums, gliders, bandicoots, rodents, carnivorous marsupials

- Agonal breathing, dilated pupils and blue mucous membranes
- Severe facial trauma with fractured jaw- **except** mandibular symphyseal fracture which is repairable.
- Emaciated with no obvious cause (healing fracture, burns, other injury which should have wildlife veterinary assessment prior to euthanasia decision)
- Severe dermatitis lesions affecting the cloaca or the eyes (i.e. loss of eyelid causing inability to blink), or dermatitis causing emaciation

Monotremes

Echidnas, platypus

- Agonal breathing or severe respiratory distress
- Extensive fractures to beak
- Open fractures with bone exposed
- Spinal trauma/fractures with inability to use legs or strongly curl into ball