

Marsupial Pouch Young Hand- Rearing Viability Guide

Marsupial pouch young may be considered suitable for hand-rearing if they are above minimum body weights and stage of development. Pouch young that have not reached these minimum weight and/or development milestones have a poor prognosis for survival and should be euthanised. Any joeys that have fractures, severe head bruising or myopathy must be euthanised regardless of developmental stage.

Development Viability Guide For Orphaned Marsupials

Feature	Unviable	Viable
Eyes	Closed No colour on or around eyes No eyelashes formed	Open; or Eyelids well-formed and eyelashes formed Colour on eyes/eyelids
Ears	Sitting down flat Stuck to head	Erect
Nose	No colour	Grey/brown colouration
Mouth	Well fused on the side Only small opening at the front	Able to open fully i.e. not fused
Skin	No colouration Transparent	Not transparent Finely furred
		

Minimum Viability Weight; for Orphaned Marsupial Pouch Young

Species	Minimum Weight*	Developmental Stage
Common Brushtail Possum	80-100g	Ears erect, eyes preferably open
Short-Eared Possum	90-100g	Ears erect, eyes preferably open
Ringtail Possum	55g	Cutting fur, eyes open
Sugar Glider	15g	Fur pigmentation
Squirrel Glider	15g	Fur pigmentation
Feathertail Glider	2-3g	Fine fur
Bandicoots	40g	Cutting fur
Red-necked Wallaby	200g	Good pigmentation
Swamp Wallaby	200g	Good pigmentation
Whiptail Wallaby	200g	Good pigmentation
Pademelons	120g	Good pigmentation
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	500g	Good pigmentation
Koala	120g	Mild pigmentation

*Pouch young with co-morbidities (dehydration, hypothermia, hypoglycaemia, bloat, diarrhoea, cat attack wounds etc.) have a poorer prognosis for survival and generally need to be at a more advanced stage of development if treatment is to be attempted.

Acceptable Methods of Euthanasia

Anaesthetise with isoflurane by mask: the mask may be placed over the entire joey(s) if small enough.

Once completely anaesthetised administer Lethobarb intravenous or intracardiac to euthanase.