

NWC GRANT

Acquittal for Penny Beaver

February 2024

SUMMARY

Statement Against Equipment Needed - To re-establish and upgrade a home rehabilitation facility to rescue and rehabilitate seabirds.

Please refer to Table 1 for funding allocations. Since the funding was received on 23 August 2023, I have rescued and rehabilitated 31 animals (Appendix A), with 52% released (Figure 1) with several unusual or listed species including a shy albatross, little shearwater, loggerhead turtle, hawksbill turtle, yellow-bellied sea snake and three white-faced storm petrels. Three of the individuals were out of their normal range including the post hatchling loggerhead turtle, hawksbill turtle and yellow-bellied sea snake.

The original application included a Westinghouse vertical freezer due to our storage space having shelving down each side. Due to supply issues in the area the original freezer could not be supplied by local suppliers with other suppliers unwilling to deliver to Bermagui. My husband adjusted the storage area to accommodate a different shaped freezer. A CHIQ freezer was purchased, it was on sale at a much lower cost creating a saving of \$724.00, which was used to purchase several other critical items summarised and explained in the section below.

If the committee feels that these items do not meet the eligibility or grant requirements, and they would prefer funds be returned.

Item	Applied for	Acquitted	Variance
Grant paid date 23/8/2023	2,368.00	2,368.00	
Eufy 2cPro x 3 cameras	(629.95)	(629.95)	
Westinghouse 173L vertical freezer including delivery	(1,149.00)		
CHIQ 199L deep freezer including delivery		(425.00)	724.00
Pawz adjustable ramp	(96.94)	(79.99)	16.95
Tuff Turf	(372.00)	(527.36)	(155.36)
Sand replacement	(120.11)	(121.92)	(1.81)
Marine Salinity tester & Temperature Reader		(231.92)	(231.92)
Collapsible pet playpen		(20.00)	(20.00)
Sand rake		(14.95)	(14.95)
Outdoor nylon dog bed elevated		(49.95)	(49.95)
Soft mat for large-raised seabird bed		(40.42)	(40.42)
12foot pool Bestway		(149.00)	(149.00)
Pool cover and postage		(36.00)	(36.00)
Total unspent funds	(0.00)	41.54	41.54

Table 1 | Budget versus actuals.

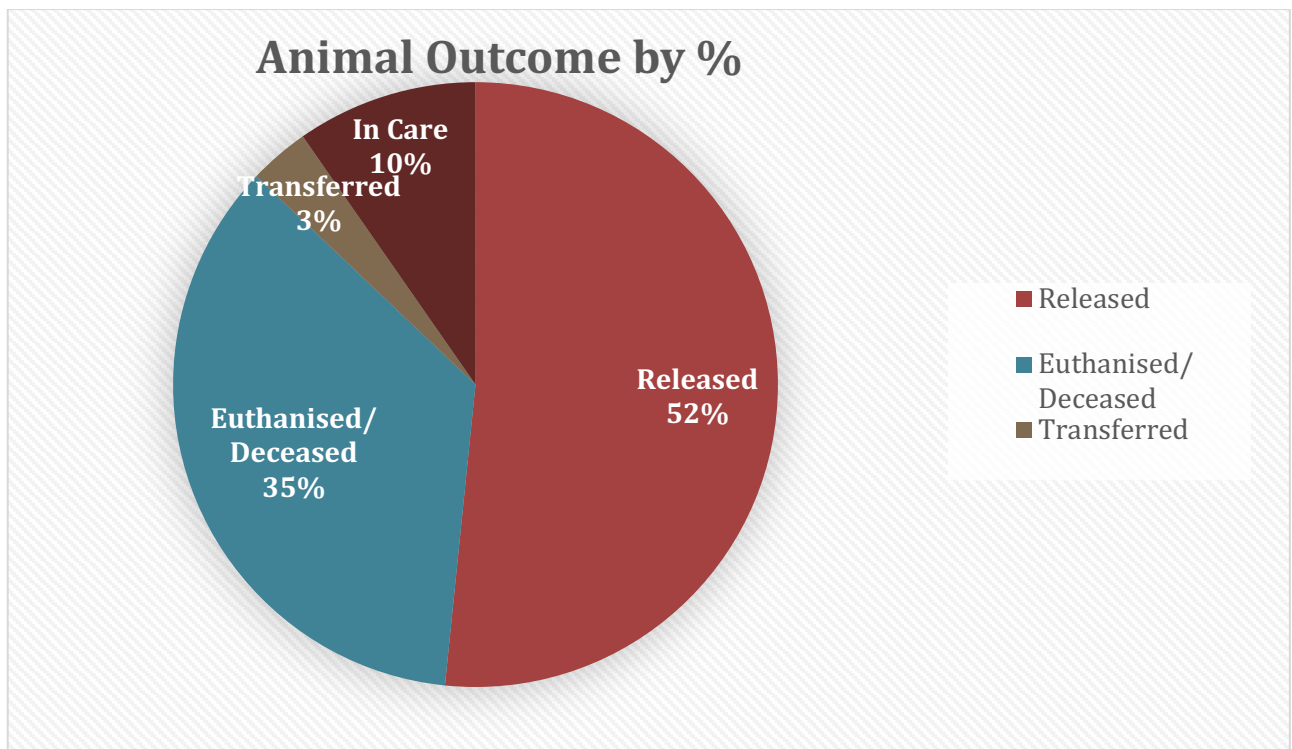


Figure 1 | Outcomes as a percentage of total animals rescued and rehabilitated during the period 23 August 2023 to 14 February 2024.

BUDGET

Deep freezer

The Westinghouse 173L was not available from Betta Electrical Narooma or Bega who were the only suppliers willing to deliver to my area. The CHIQ deep freezer was on sale at a heavily reduced price, creating a positive variance of \$724.00 (Table 1). My husband was able to create a space by removing some permanent shelving from the storage area which meant a larger space could be created for the CHIQ freezer to fit in, as it was a different shape.

Adjustable Ramp

Original item was sold out a similar ramp was sourced and was on sale, creating a positive variance of \$16.95 (Table 1).

Fake Turf

This item was priced online due to the closest supplier being 102km away a 204km round trip. Upon inspection the original fake turf in the grant was not at an appropriate thickness for large pelagic seabirds and did not cover the whole aviary floor in one piece. The fake turf purchased covered the floor area in one piece and was thicker by 10mm, creating a negative variance of (\$155.36).

Other items

- The salinity reader is a critical tool, ensuring the right amount of salt salinity and temperate range is achieved when salting a pool manually for marine turtles and sea snakes and salinity levels for pelagic seabirds. It allows salt levels to be introduced slowly, avoiding any potential salt toxicity issues (Photo 1).
- The large 3.66m x 0.76m pool and pool cover was purchased and has been an essential piece of equipment in waterproofing several pelagic seabirds including the hybrid rockhopper penguin, shy albatross, gannets and little penguins (Photo 2 and 3).

- The temperature reader has been important during the warmer months ensuring birds do not overheat as well as ensuring a temperature gauge in the cooler months for critical ill seabirds. The gauge monitors rehabilitation areas internally and externally, in carrier cages whilst travelling in cars and ensuring I have the temperature within the required range needed for each situation, species and phase of their rehabilitation process. I was simply relying on feel rather than actual data previously.
- Elevated dog beds are used for large pelagic seabirds that use nests, such as gannets, albatross and giant petrels (Photo 4). With the dog mat used to soften the dog bed to reduce potential for secondary complications such as bed sores and bumblefoot.
- Collapsible playpen is used for small to medium critical care birds that require isolation from others and can be easily setup, cleaned and stored. The one purchased is perfect for terns, gulls, small to medium petrels and shearwaters that can be housed inside in a heated room, until they are fit enough to be transferred to the pre-release aviary or pool (Photo 5).
- Sand rake is used to rake the sand daily to ensure any fecal matter is picked up and any wet sand dries more quickly, reducing potential for sand to cause secondary complications such as bumblefoot.

Thank you for providing funding it has been greatly appreciated and a huge burden removed from my personal finances. One final note, the Eufy security cameras have been a game changer regarding observing natural behaviour. I have allocated one for the aviary, pool and critical care room allowing me to observe and make rehabilitation decisions on how an animal is progressing through rehabilitation, when to transfer them out of critical care to the pre-release aviary to when they are ready to be released. I am more than happy to provide videos showing the benefits of the remote cameras. I plan on using some of the footage to train other volunteers on what is normal behaviour versus not normal.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

APPENDIX A – ANIMAL OUTCOMES

Species in care that have benefited from NWC Grant 23/8/2023					
Common Name	Count	Released	Euthanised/ Deceased	Transferred	In Care
Australasian Gannet	4	2	1		1
Australian pelican	1		1		
Azure kingfisher	1	1			
Great Cormorant	5	4	1		
Crested Tern	1		1		
Fluttering shearwater	1		1		
Hawksbill turtle	1				1
Penguin	4	3			1
Little Shearwater	1	1			
Loggerhead turtle	1			1	
Pacific gull	1		1		
Short-tailed Shearwater	2		2		
Shy Albatross	1	1			
Silver Gull	3	1	2		
White-faced Storm Petrel	3	3			
Yellow-bellied Sea Snake	1		1		
Total	31	16	11	1	3
Total by %		52%	35%	3%	10%