

LOOKOUT FOR WILDLIFE

What you can do to reduce animals being injured or killed.

- Stay alert and look ahead for wildlife.
- Slow down especially at dawn and dusk when animals are most active.
- Slow down at night time.
- Don't throw out litter that may attract animals to the road side.
- Move dead animals off the road at least 10m to prevent other animals venturing out to investigate.
- Check animals on the road for young once moved.

It is possible to scare animals off the road

- Honk your horn.
- Use a Shoo roo or similar device.
- Flash high beam lights.
- Slow down.

Slow moving animals such as smaller lizards and echidnas can be encouraged off the road.

Try not to take the animal from the local area.

This is its natural habitat.

Wildcare Inc is a non-profit organisation, which provides a support network for carers of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. The primary objective is to rehabilitate and release these animals back into their natural habitat and to raise community awareness concerning the care and conservation of native animals.

For more information on Wildcare Inc or information provided in this fact sheet contact Wildcare at PO Box 464, Palmerston NT, go to www.wildcarent.org.au or phone 89886121

- ❖ Wildcare Inc cannot be held liable for any information provided in this fact sheet.

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CARING FOR WILDLIFE ON THE ROAD



Many animals are injured on Australian roads. You can help injured animals and prevent further injuries. Always take care when on the road.



ALWAYS TAKE CARE WHEN RESCUING ANIMALS.

Do not attempt to rescue injured wildlife from a road if it puts you, or other road users, at risk.

Do not stop your car unless it is clearly visible to traffic in both directions.

Any injured animal will be terrified and probably in pain. It is likely to scratch, kick and bite to try and protect itself. Get assistance if required – do not put yourself at risk.

Serious diseases may be transmitted by some animals so seek medical attention of bitten or scratched or if you come into contact with bodily fluids please thoroughly wash with disinfectant.

NEVER attempt to rescue a bat, call the Rescue numbers and monitor the animal.

Before taking any action consider the following:

- Can you handle the animal?
- Do you have something to wrap the animal in when you pick it up?
- Do you have something to put it in for transportation?
- Where will you take it?

When picking up the animal keep noise to a minimum. Try not to shine lights directly into the eyes and approach slowly and quietly - an animal may appear unconscious but it may not be. Kites and eagles often 'Play Dead' when injured.

Visually assess injuries

If the animal appears uninjured & you think it is only stunned move it to a place of safety off the road. Make sure it is placed in the shade & protect it until it recovers. Do not interfere with any young in the pouch.

For **large animals or birds** with obvious fractures it is best not to move the animal without professional help. If possible call the closest rescue service for advice.

For **smaller animals** wrap them tightly in a thick coat or blanket and try to prevent the injured wing or limb from moving. Gently apply external pressure to help stop any bleeding.

Put animals in a bag, box or wrap snugly with a towel. Do not offer any food or water.

Keep all injured wildlife warm and quiet and covered.

Check the pouch of female marsupials for young. Be careful some of these can still kick, bite and scratch.

When removing pouch young from a dead mother still firmly attached to the teat, place a safety pin through the teat, close to the mouth of the joey, and then cut the teat off leaving the teat & pin in it's mouth. Pulling the teat out will damage the mouth of a developing joey. The pouch may have to be cut open to safely remove the young. Make sure you have a firm hold of older joeys as they are likely to wriggle free and escape and probably die of starvation.

Young wallaby and possums joeys (just furred or unfurred) are unable to thermo-regulate & will get cold very quickly. You may need to hold them against you to keep them warm.

Check the area around the injured animal for young. Joeys may have been thrown from the pouch and might be hiding injured nearby.

Take a note of the exact location of the rescue site and maybe tie a marker on a tree. Many animals are territorial and should be returned as soon as possible to their area. Echidnas may have suckling young that they leave in hollows whilst foraging. Many animals mate for life and have family groups.

Ring ahead to let rescuers know you are coming or arrange a place to meet them. Most wildlife needs special care from experienced carers and will not survive long without expert treatment. Ring the closest wildlife care group or veterinarian as soon as possible. All vets will help – generally free of charge.

When the animal has been dropped off, check yourself for bites and scratches that may need treatment & clean bedding clothing etc that may have been soiled. Go to a doctor for a check-up if you have been injured in any way.

Rescue Phone No's

Wildcare Inc 89886121 or 0412 910 975

Katherine - 0407 934 252

Alice Springs - 0419 221 128