

POSSUMS

Common causes for intervention - orphans displaced by territorial fighting, car accidents, primary poisoning from rat baits and falling down chimneys and wall cavities.

CONTAINMENT A securely tied bag or a sturdy, well secured box.

HANDLING Cover animal before using both hands to hold the base of the tail and the scruff of the neck in a strong grip.

BANDICOOTS

Common causes for intervention – cat attacks on juveniles, car accidents and secondary poisoning from rodent baits, snail pellets and lawn beetle poison.

CONTAINMENT A securely tied bag or secure box.

HANDLING Cover animal and use both hands to pick it up. Avoid grabbing the tail as it may well come away in your hands, as may its coarse body hair. These animals are particularly subject to stress.

SHINGLEBACK LIZARDS

Common causes for intervention – dog attacks, whipper snipper and lawnmower injuries, car accidents, drowning in swimming pools, influenza (congested eyes and nostrils, lethargy, [the animal looks ‘flat’] and it has a thin flat tail).

CONTAINMENT Immediate removal to a fly-proof area is essential. Injured Shinglebacks can be flystruck within minutes of injury. Many blowflies can and do lay maggots rather than eggs.

TORTOISES

Commonest cause for intervention – car accidents.

CONTAINMENT In a small box. Do not place in water until the animal’s injuries have been assessed. Shell injuries invariably involve damage to the underlying tissue and organs. The wound must be cleaned, kept dry and healed (a matter of some weeks) before attention can be paid to the shell. Contrary to popular belief, shell damage is not repaired with fibreglass.

ECHIDNAS

An infant Echidna is called a Puggle. In summer, tiny puggles are often rescued from the roadside when their mother is hit by a car, or in the case of older puggles, when their

nursery burrows are excavated by land clearing. Adults and juveniles are also subject to car accidents and dog attacks.

CONTAINMENT If transporting an Echidna in your car make sure it is securely contained in a box. Echidnas are very powerful animals for their size and will easily work their way out of a flimsy box or plastic garbage bag to possibly lodge themselves in an inaccessible part of your vehicle requiring partial dismantling to remove it.

HANDLING Throw a towel over the animal and pick it up using both hands on either side of its body. Do not pick it up by its back legs.

SPECIAL NOTES Echidnas have a lower body temperature than other animals and are extremely sensitive to heat.

They do not need to be kept warm. Heat is a greater danger than cold. In warm, hot weather they should be kept in a cool place. An Echidna which has been hit or run over by a car may show very little evidence of damage as its spiky exterior can mask signs of injury.

INFANTS Keep Puggles in the dark in a moderate temperature. They need highly specialised care involving specially formulated Echidna milk combined with specialised feeding techniques. Contain in a pillow case.

RESCUE DETAILS

Please note the EXACT location you find the animal as all rehabilitators endeavour to return rehabilitated animals to their own territories. This is critical in the case of extremely territorial animals such as magpies and possums.

120 Gilchrist Rd, Lesmurdie, WA 6076

Hospital open every day 8.30am-6.30pm

Tours and visits by appointment

Email: info@kanyanawildlife.org.au

www.kanyanawildlife.org.au

GLOVEBOX GUIDE

Sick, injured or orphaned Wildlife

All sick, injured and orphaned wildlife will be cold, shocked, highly stressed and dehydrated. Injured wildlife, other than orphans, will adopt what is called the preservation reflex. They will mask their pain and injuries at all costs in order to appear *normal*. Appearances can be deceptive to the untrained observer.

Native animals are particularly susceptible to stress and this alone is enough to kill them.

The immediate and basic needs of injured wildlife are:

- **secure containment to prevent further injury (a cardboard box works well)**
- **warmth**
- **quiet**
- **dark**
- **no food or water and**
- **urgent help from a qualified person, either a Vet or a Wildlife Rehabilitator.**

By law, all wildlife are protected and may not be kept as pets.

Do not endanger yourself or others during the rescue.



Tel (08) 9291 3900

WILDCARE HELPLINE

9474 9055

Approach any wild animal with care. Kangaroos in particular, are capable of lashing out with their powerful back legs, even when severely injured. Most animals are able to inflict nasty bites and scratches especially when frightened and in pain.

Until you can get the animal to a qualified person either a Vet or a Wildlife Rehabilitator, the animal requires the following which apply to most wildlife.

CONTAINMENT If possible, place the animal in a similar size box. Too large a box will allow the animal to further damage itself or its feathers. Cages are not recommended. To allow the animal to grip, line the bottom with a thick cloth without loose threads which could entangle its claws. Ensure that the container is well fastened. You don't want an animal loose in the house or in your car while driving. Do not place water in the box as the animal will invariably upset it and end up with wet feathers, further increasing its heat loss. For the same reason, don't put ducklings in water.

WARMTH All animals will be shocked and cold. Keep them in a warm place out of draughts. Nestlings particularly (preferably in their nest) need to be kept warm, even on a hot day. Place the nestlings in a small takeaway food container lined with tissues, cover with a dark cloth and place under a table lamp for warmth. Do not leave in the sun as they can be burned. A cold animal which is sick, injured or orphaned will stay cold unless it is heated by some **external heat source**. Wrapping an animal alone will not make it warm. **Small animals and orphans can be wrapped in a blanket or jumper and put under your clothing, next to your skin.** This is a safe, reliable source of warmth. Alternative emergency heat sources are hot water bottles, micro-wavable heat packs, plastic containers filled with warm water, electric blankets on low, or increased heating inside the car. Animals must not be placed directly onto a heat source and they **should always be wrapped** in a cloth or towel. Take care not to warm the animal too quickly and avoid extreme fluctuations in temperature. **A joey requires the same care as a premature baby.**

QUIET Native animals are extremely susceptible to stress and this alone is often enough to kill them. Keep the animal as quiet as possible and away from loud noises such as radios, televisions, household machinery and children. Please

keep domestic animals away from the injured animal. Whilst you may know your pet is harmless or that the animal is safe from your pet, the injured and stressed animal doesn't and will become further stressed by the presence of your pets even if they are unseen. Covering the animal's head is often beneficial if it becomes stressed.

DO NOT FEED All native animals have highly specialised diets. The animal can do without food until you are able to get it to a qualified person. A shocked and cold animal is not concerned about food. Offering unsuitable food can further compromise the animal's outcome. Attempting to feed an animal can cause further stress and even death from choking. Contrary to popular belief, Weetbix, bread or milk are not suitable food substitutes. Land birds are either Granivores (grain eaters), Nectivores (nectar), Frugivores (fruit), Insectivores (insects), Carnivores (meat), or Omnivores (eat a variety of food). Birds must be correctly identified in order to determine their diet. As well, diets can vary at different ages and times of year.

The animal may be severely dehydrated and, if you are not going to be able to immediately deliver the animal to a qualified person, you can offer tiny amounts of lukewarm water but only if the animal will self-drink.

QUALIFIED CARE Please get the animal to a qualified person as soon as possible, either a Vet or a Wildlife Rehabilitator. Delays can be fatal. Phone the 24 hour Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055 to be put in touch with the nearest Wildlife Rehabilitator. Please don't keep the animal for a few hours or days before calling for help.

BIRDS

Common causes for intervention – cat attacks, orphans (spring storms and pruning), concussion (glass windows), secondary poisoning (from rodent baits, snail pellets and lawn beetle poison) and car accidents.

CAT ATTACK Any bird attacked by a cat will undoubtedly have unseen claw puncture wounds. Any wound inflicted by a cat can cause septicaemia which if left untreated will kill the animal within 48 hours. Although the bird may appear to be uninjured, please **do not let it go** as it will need treatment to survive.

KANGAROOS AND OTHER MAMMALS

IF THE ANIMAL IS DEAD

If you are able to safely move the animal please move it off the road and onto the verge. **Please check the underbelly for a pouch.** Animals such as kangaroos and possums carry their young in their pouch. A bulge or movement inside a pouch may indicate live young. **Gently remove the joey,** taking care not to further injure the joey; it may be necessary to cut the pouch open; **do not pull the joey off the teat,** cut the teat off as far down as possible and leave it in the joey's mouth. In the case of smaller kangaroos, wallabies and possums it's desirable, if possible, to leave the joey in the pouch and take the dead or dying mother with you until you get it to a Vet or a Wildlife Rehabilitator. **Please take note whether there is a second elongated teat in the pouch; this indicates that the dead animal has another older joey at heel which will also need rescuing.** Please report this to the **24 hour Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055** which may be able to arrange for the later rescue of the older joey.

IF AN ANIMAL IS CRITICALLY INJURED

Kangaroos with leg fractures cannot be saved; they should be humanely euthanased as soon as possible preferably by shooting. If in the country, assistance may be received from nearby farmers, the police or shire Rangers. Alternatively, the **24 hour Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055** has access to trained volunteers throughout the State who will be able to expertly shoot the animal.

SEEK IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

Wild animals have a strong preservation reflex and will mask their suffering at all costs, so don't go by appearances.

Seek immediate veterinary help if the animal is injured; most vets deal with wildlife rehabilitators and will know of someone who is qualified to care for the animal.

Alternatively, you can phone the **24 hour Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055** which will put you in touch with one of the hundreds of Wildlife rehabilitators throughout Western Australia who will be able to offer specific emergency advice.