



WILDLIFE RESCUE

BIG OR SMALL BE KIND TO ALL

WILD DEFENDER BADGES



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WILDLIFE RESCUE.

Has your family ever accidentally hit a wild animal while driving on the roads? Or found an injured animal while you have been out and about? Sadly, we have all seen deceased wildlife lying on the side of a road - but sometimes marsupial females still have a live joey inside their pouch.

Native animals need rescuing for all kinds of reasons. Some are injured by cars, some fly into windows or fencing and some are injured by our pets. Native animals can also become weak and disorientated after losing their homes - such as a forest that has been cleared to build houses or roads.

This resource guide and activity booklet provides Wild Defenders with information about how to give life-saving first aid to native animals that need our help.

Remember that native animal care requires very specific skills and knowledge. In Australia only licensed wildlife carers can rehabilitate native animals.

Always call your local wildlife hospital or rescue organisation for assistance.

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GRAPHIC DESIGN BY GOLD COAST
GRAPHIC DESIGN

+ CHALLENGE 1:

MAKE A RESCUE KIT

Put together a simple wildlife rescue kit for the back of your family car in case you see a native animal in trouble.



A box - you will need a box that has a secure top and bottom (that can be closed). Choose a medium sized box that can fit most birds, orphaned marsupials and some reptiles. Poke air holes through the sides of the box for ventilation.

Torch - very handy for rescues in low light. Make sure it works and that you have spare batteries.



Gloves - A pair of thick gloves is good protection against potential scratches from sharp beaks & claws.



Fabric pouch or pillowcase - perfect for keeping some animals secure. It is a good idea to keep an elastic band in the kit to secure the top.



Towel or blanket - Once you find an injured animal you will need to catch it! Throwing a towel or blanket over the animal and grabbing it quickly is a good way to capture it.



Important phone numbers - know who to call to hand over a rescued animal.



Strong scissors - for cutting loose fishing lines, netting or rope.



High visibility jacket - if you and your family are rescuing an animal by the side of the road - it is a good idea to be highly visible to other passing cars.



First aid kit - despite your kind efforts to rescue an injured animal, they will still try to escape! They do not understand that you are trying to help them, so you may still get scratched or bitten. A first aid kit with some basic supplies, such as antiseptic cream and dressings, is a good idea.



IMPORTANT RESCUE TIPS

SAFETY FIRST!

- + Do not attempt to rescue an animal unless you are confident that you will not be harmed. Take particular care on or near roads.
- + Native animals become stressed when being chased or handled. Call your local wildlife group for help and advice before chasing an animal.
- + Do not pick up snakes, lace monitors (goannas), birds of prey, platypus, koalas or adult wallabies and kangaroos. Always call an expert.
- + Never touch bats, as a small proportion carry a disease called Australian bat lyssavirus that is similar to rabies. An expert, who has been trained and vaccinated, must attend this rescue.
- + If you are under the age of 16, always involve an adult in any rescue.

EMERGENCY WILDLIFE CARE

- + Try to keep the animal calm by minimising the noise and interaction with people. Remember these three words: WARM DARK and QUIET to reduce unnecessary stress.
- + Do not give the animal food or water as this can be detrimental to its health. It needs specialised care from an expert.
- + Please don't keep the animal and try to care for it yourself. Each animal needs specialised care, medication and has a very specific diet. A wildlife hospital or specialised carer with the necessary knowledge and training will be best able to care for the animal.
- + Always check deceased marsupials, as they may have surviving young with them (in a pouch) or near them.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

MARSUPIALS

(Wombats, possums, gliders, bandicoots, kangaroos, wallabies & other marsupials)

TO RESCUE MARSUPIAL JOEYS:

ADD TO YOUR KIT -
A SAFETY PIN AND A
FABRIC POUCH



CHECK FOR LIFE

1. Be sure to check that the mother is deceased before attempting to remove her baby. Check for breathing, stiffness, and body warmth, or touch the corner of an eye gently to test for a blink reflex.

OPEN POUCH

2. Gently open the pouch and look for a joey. Look closely as joeys may be hidden towards the bottom of the pouch.

LEAVE ATTACHED

3. If the joey's mouth is attached to the teat, do not try to detach them. Instead, if possible, the mother and joey should be transported to a carer together. If it is not possible to transport both, you will need to cut off the teat. Pulling the joey off the teat can cause irreparable damage to the joey's mouth if done incorrectly. The teat is enlarged inside the joey's mouth and cannot be detached until the joey is older. In preparation for cutting off the teat, you will need to put a safety pin through the teat between the joey and the mother. This prevents the joey from swallowing the teat once it is cut off. Ensure to do this carefully with round-tipped scissors.

REMOVE GENTLY

4. Try to remove the joey gently, back-first, with the legs, tail, and head following. Be sure not to get any body parts caught, so do not pull too firmly.



COVER

5. If the joey's eyes are open, cover his or her head immediately with a blanket, towel, or pillowcase to calm the animal down (and prevent the joey from scratching you or fleeing). If you have had to cut the teat - attach the safety pin to the inside of the fabric pouch or pillowcase.

KEEP WARM

6. Keeping the joey warm but not overheated is essential. You can keep furred joeys warm by putting them in a pouch pillowcase surrounded with additional blankets. Do not place them directly on a heat source such as a heat pack or hot water bottle. If possible, place unfurred joeys next to your skin (inside your shirt) and transfer to an expert as soon as possible.

NOISE DOWN

7. Keep the noise to a minimum so as not to frighten the joey. Turn off the car radio and keep voices down.

DOCUMENT

8. Document - the location of the rescue to hand over to a wildlife hospital or wildlife carer.

CALL

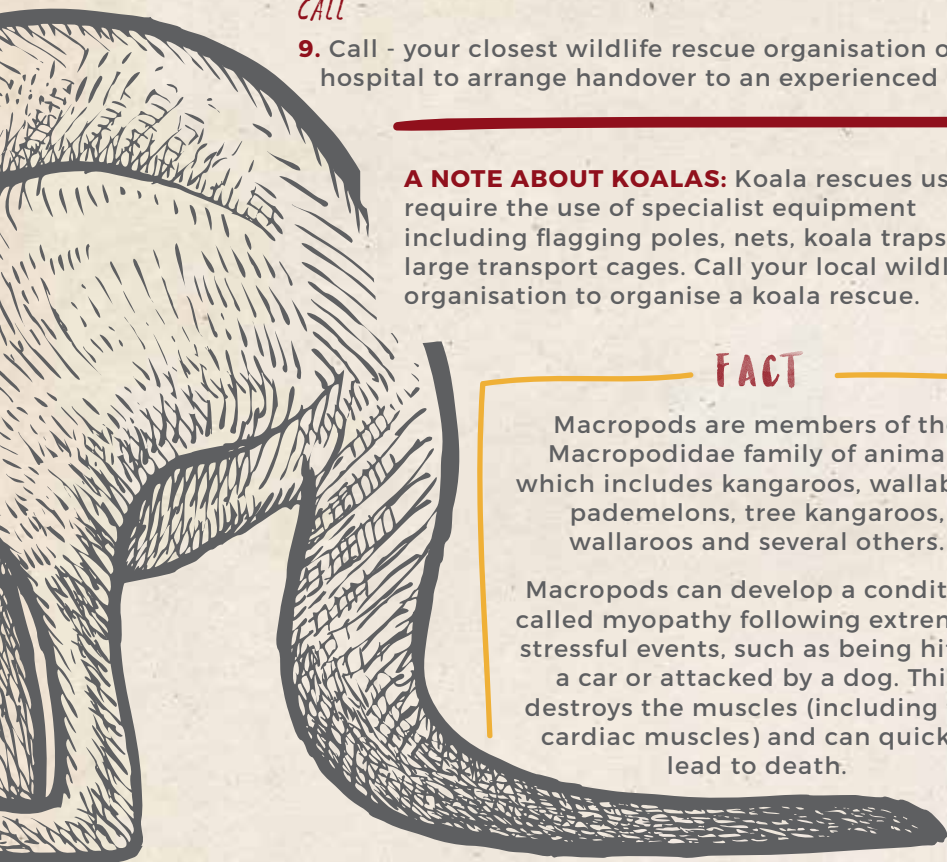
9. Call - your closest wildlife rescue organisation or wildlife hospital to arrange handover to an experienced carer.

A NOTE ABOUT KOALAS: Koala rescues usually require the use of specialist equipment including flagging poles, nets, koala traps and large transport cages. Call your local wildlife organisation to organise a koala rescue.

FACT

Macropods are members of the Macropodidae family of animals which includes kangaroos, wallabies, pademelons, tree kangaroos, wallaroos and several others.

Macropods can develop a condition called myopathy following extremely stressful events, such as being hit by a car or attacked by a dog. This destroys the muscles (including the cardiac muscles) and can quickly lead to death.



KNOW WHAT TO DO

MONOTREMES

The platypus and the echidna are the World's only monotremes - egg laying marsupials. Both are extremely shy and would rather retreat if disturbed.

ECHIDNA:
ADD TO YOUR KIT



+



CLIP LOCK LID
WITH AIR HOLES

ECHIDNAS CAN ESCAPE!!! To rescue an echidna you will need:

- + A thick blanket and a plastic tub with a clip lock lid and air holes. Echidnas are extremely good escape artists. They have been known to escape from boxes during rescues and have been found in car dashboards and inside upholstery within a very short time frame!

SAVE THE BEAK

- + Echidnas will burrow into the soil and curl up in a tight ball if they feel threatened. Wearing your gloves and using a thick blanket you can gently cover the echidna and pry it off the ground and into a secure plastic tub with a clip lock lid and air holes in the lid. Be very careful not to damage the echidna's long beak. An echidna that cannot feed may not survive.

DOCUMENT

- + Document the exact location where the echidna was found as they will need to be returned to the same place upon release.

CALL

- + Call your local wildlife rescue organisation or wildlife hospital to arrange handover.



TIP

If you see an echidna attempting to cross a road - stop and escort it across if it is safe for you to do so.

Do not attempt to change its direction or put it back where it came from - it is crossing the road for a reason (breeding season, looking for water, etc.) and it will attempt to cross again if returned to the side it came from.

REPTILES & FRESH WATER TURTLES

If you find an injured reptile:

CHECK

Check lizards for injuries. Their lungs extend three quarters of the way down the body and sometimes deep bite wounds can puncture them.



SCOOP

Scoop the animal gently into a towel and place in your rescue box. Keep it warm, dark and quiet, and contact your local wildlife rescue organisation or wildlife hospital.

PLEASE NOTE:

Do not attempt to rescue lace monitors (goannas) as these animals have extremely sharp claws and teeth that can cause significant harm. Stay and watch the animal and call your local wildlife organisation.

Blue-tongued skinks and eastern water dragons are common in suburban areas and are often seen near water (pools and ponds) and on rocks or pathways where they warm themselves.

They are not dangerous or venomous and make for great pest control in the garden.

Freshwater turtles are sometimes found on roads or in other unsafe places, especially after a downpour. You can help by moving the turtle off the road and checking to see that it is unharmed. Cracked shells can often be repaired - follow the same rescue procedure as described for a lizard.

KNOW WHAT TO DO REUNITING BABY BIRDS

IS THE BIRD SICK OR HURT?

Is it bleeding, weak or shivering? Unable to flutter its wings, or are its wings drooping unevenly? Has it been bitten or picked up by a cat or dog?

NO **YES**

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Eyes not open yet.



You have a **HATCHLING**.
It is very young.

Eyes open, can't perch, few feathers.



You have a **NESTLING**.
It needs help.

CAN YOU SEE THE NEST?

Is the nest intact and can you safely reach it?

YES

Return the bird to its nest.
Don't worry, the parents
won't reject the baby
because you have touched it.

NO

Make an artificial nest using an
ice cream tub or other similar
container. See next page for
instructions on how to make
a nest.

OBSERVE FOR AN HOUR

Are the parents still visiting the
nestling or hatchling in the nest?
Are the parents nearby the
fledgling?

Leave the area. A
baby's best chance of
survival is in the wild
with its parents.

YES

NO

YOU'VE FOUND A BABY BIRD. NOW WHAT?

Wild birds live all around us! Sometimes they need our help and sometimes they don't. How do you tell when they need to be rescued? Always follow this flow chart before deciding whether to intervene (and ensure that cats and dogs are removed from the area).



Contact your local wildlife rescue organisation.

Feathered, short tail, hops around,



You have a **FLEDGLING**.
It should be okay.

Many sharp teeth, short arms
with two large claws.



You have a **T-REX**.

IS IT IN IMMEDIATE DANGER?

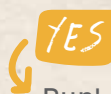


Move it carefully to a safe spot nearby, such as a low branch or nearby bush or tree.



Do not intervene. Although it looks awkward hopping around on the ground, this is a natural step.

HAS IT SEEN YOU?



Run!



Back away slowly. Do not show fear.



Contact your local wildlife rescue organisation.





HOW TO MAKE A NEST

YOU'LL NEED:



FLIP



DO NOT USE FABRICS
OR OTHER THREADS

Use an ice-cream tub, plastic bucket or other appropriate sized container for your bird. Poke holes in the base to avoid flooding the nest in the event of rain.

Line it with dry grass, the old nest or other non-slippery natural materials. Do not use fabrics or other threads that can become easily tangled around claws. Ensure the tub is not too deep - and allows for the parents to reach in and for the baby to eventually get out.

Fasten the nest in a sheltered area of the tree as close as possible to the birds' original location - well out of range of cats and dogs. Parents of the nestling will continue to feed it as long as the nestling is close and responsive and there are no people or animals lingering nearby. From a distance, watch quietly for a couple hours to make sure the parents come back to feed. If no parents return - follow the steps for saving a bird.





KNOW WHAT TO DO

BIRDS

Use these if you've found 1: A baby bird and you're sure that it needs to be rescued (after following the baby bird flowchart) or 2: An adult bird that is sick or injured.

BOX READY

- + Have your rescue box ready - with holes in the sides, lined with a towel.

PROTECT YOURSELF

- + Protect yourself using gloves and a towel. Even sick birds may try to protect themselves with their beaks or feet.

FIRM BUT GENTLE

- + Quickly and firmly, grab the bird in the towel and place it in the box and close the lid.

WARM, DARK, QUIET

- + Keep the bird in a WARM, DARK and QUIET environment. Do not keep checking on it as this increases stress.



DON'T FEED

- + Do not attempt to give the bird any food or water.

DOCUMENT

- + Document the exact location in which you found the bird.

CALL

- + Call and deliver to your local wildlife rescue organisation or wildlife hospital.



CHALLENGE 2:

KNOW YOUR BIRD FACTS

BIRD FACTS

FACT OR NOT? SEE IF YOU CAN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY....

1. Birds can smell the scent of humans on a baby that has been handled.

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2. Birds recognise their babies' voices and will come when they call.

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3. Birds may carry diseases that can be transmitted to people.

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4. A bird that has been caught by a cat should be let go if it can still fly.

.....

5. Orphaned baby birds like to be cuddled and talked to.

.....

1. NOT! Birds' sense of smell is not well understood, but they will not reject babies that have been touched by humans.
2. FACT! Adult birds respond to the begging calls of their young and will feed babies if they can reach them. In some species the call of an orphaned baby bird will be heard by other 'parents' who will adopt the baby if its own parents aren't around.
3. FACT! Birds can carry parasites as well as some bacterial, fungal or viral infections that can affect people. If you have handled a wild bird, you should wash your hands and anything the bird has been in contact with.
4. NOT! A cat's teeth cause nearly invisible puncture wounds on wild animals. Bacteria from their saliva in these wounds can cause a deadly infection. Any birds caught by a cat should be rescued and brought into care.
5. NOT! Sorry - but they are normally terrified of humans and think we are predators. Not being able to hear or see us helps to keep them calm.

+ RESCUE STORIES:

EVERY WILDLIFE RESCUE COUNTS!



Wally is an orphaned swamp wallaby who was carefully rescued from his mother's pouch after she was hit by a car. He was taken into care with a local experienced macropod carer - and buddied together with two other swamp wallabies that were similar in size. After several months of care and bonding, all three 'brothers' were released together back to the wild where they are safe and happy.

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Lollipop is a little sugar glider who was rescued from the mouth of a cat. It is unknown where her mother was. Fortunately she was immediately taken into care with an experienced wildlife carer where she was able to receive antibiotics to treat her puncture wounds. Lollipop was raised with five other little sugar gliders. When they were old enough - they were all given a new hollow home to live in - high in a eucalyptus tree. They will remain together while they explore their new environment. The little gliders often return to visit their carer while they become used to living in the wild.

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Giggles the baby laughing kookaburra lived in a termite mound nest high up in a tree. One morning after a storm, the neighbours discovered that the nest had fallen (and broken) in the night. Only Giggles was found alive. She was taken into care by local wildlife carers, raised and returned to the same tree with a new hollow to live in. Several years later neighbours were happy to see that Giggles had found a partner and had hatched her own chicks in the tree in which she was born.

HAVE YOUR OWN RESCUE STORY?

Do you have a rescue story you'd like to share with us? Get the chance to feature on our social media! Email your story with photos to hello@greenheroes.org.au

CHALLENGE 3:

CREATE A POSTER

CREATE A POSTER TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE RESCUE SERVICE. SHARE WITH US AT #BEAGREENHERO



CHALLENGE 4:

STORY HERE

CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN NATIVE ANIMAL OR ONE THAT INTERESTS YOU.
RESEARCH AND WRITE A STORY ABOUT THIS ANIMAL HERE:

DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE NATIVE ANIMAL



ANIMAL:

.....

FUN FACTS:

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CURRENT POPULATION:

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THREATS TO POPULATION:

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HOW YOU CAN HELP:

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CHALLENGE 5:

ACT TO SUPPORT WILDLIFE

Pledge to act on two or more of the following to complete your wildlife rescue badge.

THERE ARE SOME SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN HELP TO KEEP WILDLIFE SAFE:

- ☐ LOOK OUT FOR WILDLIFE ON THE ROADS ON DRIVING TRIPS.
- ☐ KEEP YOUR DOGS AND CATS IN AT NIGHT.
- ☐ PICK UP RUBBISH AND PUT IT IN THE BIN!
- ☐ AVOID SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO AS WELL.
- ☐ DON'T FEED WILDLIFE. EACH ANIMAL HAS A VERY SPECIFIC DIET AND A SPECIALISED DIGESTIVE SYSTEM TO MATCH. FEEDING THEM INCORRECT FOOD SUCH AS BREAD CAN CAUSE SEVERE DISCOMFORT AND LONG TERM HEALTH PROBLEMS.
- ☐ PLANT SOME NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR BACKYARD.
- ☐ SPREAD THE WORD! TELL YOUR FRIENDS HOW AMAZING OUR WILDLIFE IS. THE MORE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THESE PRECIOUS CREATURES, THE MORE WE CAN DO TO SAVE THEM. .

- ☐ WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES TO TELL THEM HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE PRESERVE WILDLIFE HABITATS.
- ☐ ORGANISE A FUNDRAISER AT YOUR SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY GROUP TO HELP WILDLIFE RESCUE ORGANISATIONS.
- ☐ COLLECT DONATIONS OF TOWELS, BLANKETS, POUCHES, CAGES, NESTING BOXES AND MONEY FOR WILDLIFE CARERS TO HELP THEM NURSE OUR NATIVE ANIMALS BACK TO HEALTH.
- ☐ LEARN TO USE A SEWING MACHINE SO YOU CAN MAKE POUCHES FOR JOEYS.
- ☐ INSTALL A NESTING BOX FOR WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD.
- ☐ HOST A BIRTHDAY PARTY OR OTHER SPECIAL EVENT AND ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO DONATE TO A WILDLIFE RESCUE ORGANISATION INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU A PRESENT.

WELL DONE WILD DEFENDER!

**YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED YOUR
WILDLIFE RESCUE CHALLENGES AND EARNED YOUR
WILDLIFE RESCUE BADGE!**

JUST FOR FUN!

COLOURING ACTIVITY





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