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Snip Rings for Wildlife: a new campaign to help protect Australia's Wildlife

Snip Rings for Wildlife aims to raise awareness and encourage individuals to protect Australia's Wildlife, by cutting through plastic rings, rubber bands and hair ties before disposing of them. Each year, thousands of birds and air-breathing aquatic Wildlife such as platypus, turtles and water dragons are strangled, obtain significant injuries and often die horrific deaths from discarded litter.

The President of the **Australian Wildlife Society, Suzanne Medway AM**, said "*Wildlife often become entangled in plastic rings, rubber bands and hair ties that wrap around their beak or muzzle, preventing them from eating. These items can also tangle up their feet, wings, or fins, limiting their movement. Young animals can become entrapped in these items, and as they grow, these items cut into their flesh, sometimes amputating limbs or killing the animal*".

Some jars, bottles, and tetra packs now come with a plastic ring that snaps apart from the lid upon opening (but many do not) or a peel-off seal under the cap. When the Australian Wildlife Society encounters a lid that does not snap, we contact the manufacturer, informing them of the danger that plastic rings, rubber bands and hair ties pose to native wildlife, encouraging companies to take action to improve their products for Australia's Wildlife. Despite our efforts, many companies are not taking action, and Australia's wildlife continues to fall victim to horrific deaths from discarded litter.

While we continue to urge companies to act, we turn to members of the community to ask for your support to protect Australia's Wildlife and Snip Rings for Wildlife. It is important to remind ourselves that we can act, both as individuals and collectively, to bring about the important changes ourselves and protect Australia's Wildlife.

The Society is encouraging everyone to get behind and help promote the campaign by posting a video of themselves, on social media, snipping through a plastic ring, rubber band or hair tie before disposing of it. Please do not forget to use the hashtag **#snipringsforwildlife**. We also welcome community members to send a letter to companies that continue to produce plastic rings, rubber bands or hair ties, encouraging them to take action to improve their products for Australia's Wildlife. The Society has created a template letter which can be found at www.aws.org.au/snip-rings-for-wildlife/

The **Australian Wildlife Society**, formed in 1909, is a national not-for-profit wildlife conservation organisation. Their mission is to conserve Australia's Wildlife (flora and fauna) through national environmental education, political lobbying, advocacy and involvement of the community.

For further enquiries, please contact Patrick Medway, AWS CEO, 0402 435 048





Magpie	This magpie was lucky enough to be found before starving to death. Many entrapped birds do not fare so well, and they succumb silently, in agony and out of sight. Image: WIRES Northern Rivers
Platypus	This platypus was bound and killed by injuries from a rubber band. The band was tangled tight around the animal's neck, and under its left flipper, clearly cutting into its flesh. Image: Wildlife Rockhampton
Turtle	This turtle, Mae West, has been deformed. As she grew, she could not break this plastic belt around her waist. Her shell is now permanently deformed, giving her an hourglass-like shape. Image: Marcus Eriksen
Water dragon	This water dragon got his head stuck through the safety seal ring of a discarded bottle and would have slowly starved to death if it had not been rescued. Image: WIRES Northern Rivers
Dolphin	This dolphin starved to death after being unable to open its mouth from a plastic bottle ring that got caught on the dolphin's beak. Image: Papa Bois Conservation.
Snip Rings for Wildlife	<i>Snip Rings for Wildlife</i> campaign logo

