

# WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL**

**November 2019**

Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)  
PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560  
Ph: (07) 5441 6200 [www.wilvos.org.au](http://www.wilvos.org.au)

**PLEASE NOTE POSTAL ADDRESS CHANGE.**

WILVOS would like to thank all the wonderful people who have offered help in these past depressing weeks, or have sent messages to show they care. The raging fires have meant destruction of bushland habitat and decimation of our native animal populations.

In our Sunshine Coast region, few injured animals have surfaced, which is in direct contrast to New South Wales. It can only be assumed wildlife didn't survive the inferno, or do we just have so few native animals left? I have spoken to Eumundi RSPCA Wildlife, the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, Queensland Koala Rescue, and Wildcare members. The Sunshine Coast just hasn't seen many victims from bushfires, though we have all had our busiest year ever for injured and orphaned wildlife - thanks to drought and development. The future for all our native animals looks bleak.

With people wanting to help, WILVOS have tried to direct them where the help is most needed. Our thoughts are with all who are suffering across Australia from years of drought. It is a harsh time.

Without habitat, our wildlife have no future, so WILVOS are proud supporters of Bush Heritage Australia, as they buy land across Australia to protect habitat. The Australian Wildlife Conservancy purchases land and establishes sanctuaries. Birdlife Australia, besides acquiring properties, has ongoing resources such as Atlas, Birdata, Birds in Backyards and of course the Aussie Backyard Bird Count held each October. All those phone apps! We can all make a difference in our own way, even in these harrowing times.

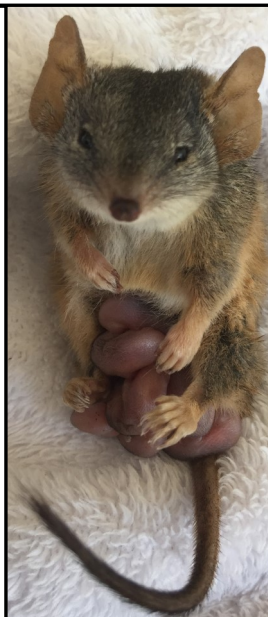
Many of our local people have had to face dreadful situations. I cannot imagine the trauma felt by those who have been close to the fires, and by those who have had to leave their animals behind as they evacuate.

Our emergency service workers are all heroes. It was hot outside just with the heat rising off the ground—to be out there fighting fires, day and night, is incredibly courageous. They need all the support they can get to face the summer ahead.

Over the past weekend, our Hotline volunteers have just done an amazing job coping with all the calls coming in after the storms. Each shift the phone was bombarded with calls about animals needing help.

Hundreds of houses and cars were severely damaged by hail so it was another devastating weekend for many. Hopefully, things will improve from here on. It is almost the holiday season and many are not feeling too jolly at the moment.

WILVOS would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas with family and friends. May 2020 make all your dreams come true.



Yellow-footed  
Antechinus with seven  
young  
*Antechinus flavipes*  
Fascinating animals.

Thank you to all our wonderful local veterinarians, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital and Eumundi RSPCA Wildlife for the care given to our native animals.

Thank you also to Police and Energex who have been there when needed to help with our wildlife in varying ways.

For the Police it is not pleasant to have to euthanize animals but it relieves suffering which, in these cases, is the best rescue outcome for the animal.

## GROWING CRICKETS –Easy, cheap feeding.

The following was my first cricket growing exercise. I have bred a few batches since them. (Refined the process a little!) I kept it simple and used what I had on hand initially before upgrading my containers!

A plastic fruit basket from the bottom of a fridge, with a cardboard lid with holes stabbed in it! Veeerrry high tech! Held down with the spray bottle of water needed to spray the cotton balls and sand each day.

Line the bottom with paper towel—in layered squares so it can be removed with minimum disturbance and escapees!

I put in jar lids containing my home-grown cotton balls, sprayed with water (When I change them next day I put the old cotton balls in a plant pot to grow more 'cotton trees'!) (Crickets drown in water dishes.) A little water over the vegetables is fine.

Next a jar lid of fine chook mash, and another jar lid of vegetables. Rolls (6) from paper towel are good for them to hide in and I bend the ends down so crickets can go in and hide. This enables me to quickly close ends, and throw the roll in with gliders, water dragons or birds! They grab the poor darlin's as they come out.

Put in a takeaway food container full of sand which is sprayed with water each day. This is where eggs are laid and must be kept damp. (Females have the long proboscis.)

Once chirping and breeding, keep track of the time and move the sand dish to another container after about 2 weeks, and keep spraying till they hatch. In a couple of weeks tiny little crickets appear like pinheads, by the hundreds! Put another sand dish in your first container and happy farming!

They breed rapidly in summer. Your live food is only as nutritious as their diet so feed them well. This takes no time, and just the cost of a container of crickets from the pet shop, and is so easy. With easy grow live feed such as crickets and earthworms (they are even easier!) you are giving your animals high quality feed at next to no cost. No time? Take five minutes a day off your social media time!



## WILVOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

This Sunday 24th November 2019.

1pm to 3.30 pm

Yandina Historic House

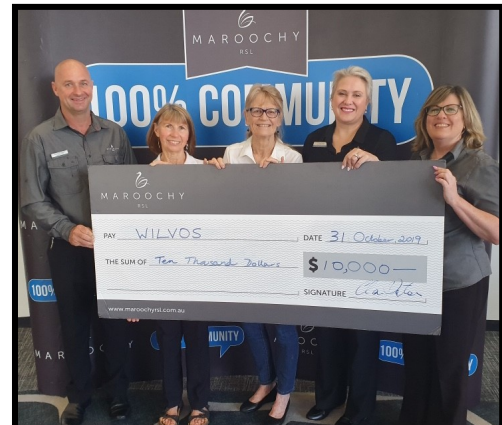
3 Pioneer Road Yandina

Afternoon Tea provided.

RSVP by FRIDAY 22nd

NOVEMBER TO workshops@wilvos.org.au

All welcome. At this SOCIAL EVENT we can relax and just sit around and chat and catch up with other members. Yay, no work!



Our sincere thanks to the Maroochy RSL who left us speechless a couple of weeks ago. They had asked us to go down to the Maroochy RSL so they could personally say 'thank you' for the rehabilitation of the lorikeet chicks rescued from planter boxes up on the walls of their carpark.

The planter boxes were deteriorating badly and had to come down. Steve from the RSL called weeks before so we were prepared for the removal. The chicks and eggs were packed up perfectly and quickly moved to a brooder.

On arrival at the Maroochy RSL we were certainly not prepared to be presented with such a large cheque. I felt that I should have been the one paying someone just for the privilege of rearing the Maroochy RSL Gang until release. I still have three younger ones, the Mini Maroochy RSL Gang that hatched from eggs in the brooder, and they are also a delight. They'll be released at a later date as they have a way to go yet. The released ones are doing so well at Lisa and Mikes beautiful property at Kiamba.

WILVOS have purchased two more aviaries as part of our Aviary loan scheme for our carers and they will be put to good use. Extra possum traps will also be bought, and more stickers to put on veterinarian and pet shop windows. Any ideas from our members are very welcome.



## Attracting Birds to Your Garden

By Eric Anderson

**Food** – plants provide food for birds both directly and indirectly. Many, such as banksias and grevilleas, are pollinated by birds and provide nectar that is rich in high-energy sugars. Other plants rely on birds to disperse their seed and the reward is in the form of energy-rich fruit. The seeds of plants such as wattles and grasses are also eaten by a range of birds. Plants also provide habitat for insects that are eaten by birds and are rich in protein – most birds include insects as a significant part of their diet.

**Shelter and protection** – most animals, including birds, form part of the diet of other animals. Birds must always be vigilant against predators and this involves either evasive action or a retreat into shelter. The thickets of understorey vegetation are important habitat elements for many bird species, particularly the smaller ones.

**Nesting material** – nests mostly need to be robust, provide good insulation and be well camouflaged. Materials needed include sticks, bark, grass, spider web, lichen and moss.

**Nesting sites** – most eggs that are produced by birds are eaten by predators (typically 70%) so there is a high demand for concealed nest sites such as can be provided by thick understorey vegetation and spiky shrubs. Harder to provide are the larger nest hollows required by rosellas and lorikeets. In these instances consider providing nest boxes – check out the Birds in Backyards web site for general tips on building and locating nest boxes for a range of birds.

**Providing water** – birds need fresh water but they are vulnerable when they are drinking or bathing and need to feel safe. Birdbaths need to be in dappled shade and beyond the reach of cats. Replace the water and clean the bath regularly. Dense shrubs should be available nearby in the garden to allow birds to escape if threatened.

**Feeding birds** – it is much healthier for birds to obtain natural food from our gardens than to be fed directly by people. If you want to feed make it an occasional treat (for you and the birds), not a daily event. Ensure that the feeding area is out of the reach of cats and other predators and that it is cleaned daily. Be cautious about feeding meat-eating birds as they can become aggressive to humans and attack vulnerable smaller birds. Only use native seed mixes rather than bread or sunflower seed.

## In Summary:

- Healthy soil means healthy garden – mulch, mulch.....
- Do not start from scratch – add plants to your garden and let them establish before removing unwanted vegetation.
- Give preference to local native plants.
- Create density – small birds need shrubs to provide protection for food and nest sites.
- Plant a variety of plants – some that attract insects, some that provide nectar, some that provide fruit and plants that flower at different times of the year.
- Avoid hybrid natives with big showy flowers where possible. These provide lots of nectar all year round and the big honeyeaters they attract chase/keep smaller birds away.
- Put in a birdbath or two.
- Keep an eye on your nest boxes to stop introduced birds or feral honeybees taking over.
- Allow birds to forage for food naturally in your garden rather than feeding them.
- Protect birds from your pets. Keep cats indoors or in a run and have an area of your garden that cats and dogs cannot access.

## Bird Contact Links

Birds in Backyards – [www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)

Birdlife Southern Queensland – [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au)

(click on Birdlife Southern Queensland)

Birdlife Sunshine Coast – [www.scbab.blogspot.com.au](http://www.scbab.blogspot.com.au)

Contact Ken Cross – [friarbird43@bigpond.com](mailto:friarbird43@bigpond.com)

Outings 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month

Welcome to all our wonderful new members at our recent induction day. One of those who joined on the day had listened to a WILVOS presentation at his school some years ago and from then on wanted to be involved with wildlife care. Happy caring, Antony!

## A lovely story from a carer:

Sharon's first tawny frogmouth was Oreo. Tawney's now have a special place in Sharon's heart. Oreo nested and laid her first two eggs on the servery outside Sharon's kitchen window. I like to think they were infertile as a currawong ran off with them. Lately, Oreo had been revisiting some days and carrying off food in her beak. Sharon suspected this was going to her young. Sure enough, Oreo then turned up with two fledglings. She was probably saying, "If times get tough, this is where you come for a little extra food."

*Please share your stories, good and bad, by emailing [newsletter@wilvos.org.au](mailto:newsletter@wilvos.org.au) Please put "Newsletter item" in the Subject line. Helps me to find any articles I didn't file....Donna*



<http://www.richmondanimalcare.com/tiki/tiki-index.php?page=Tawny%20Frogmouth>

## Survey Form to Carers & Hotliners

**T**hank you to Olivia Breed for designing this project. It is always inspiring to see someone with an idea who is prepared to do the work involved.

I think there were about 36 responses. Some missed the deadline. Others said they were happy with how WILVOS were progressing so didn't fill in the form. Tut, tut we want all feedback!

There has been so much progress within WILVOS in the past few years and it is only possible because of people who are willing to do the 'not-so-rewarding' admin side. Just maintaining the general running of the organization keeps the management team busy on a daily basis, so the extra work in instigating changes always means a lot of extra work.

I am very proud of the achievements being made and of the WILVOS organization. The members are such wonderful loyal people, all having the common goal of improving conditions for our precious wildlife.

Results of the survey will be emailed out to all very soon. It will provide more work over the Christmas holidays, but will help with plans for 2020.

**A** 'Must Read' coming up on the website is from Christine Bennett after information received from Gisela Kaplan on her visit earlier in the year.

A change must be made from bladed wind turbines as the slaughter of millions of birds and bats by the blades is horrendous. In Spain alone it is catastrophic. An alternative is the modern bladeless wind generator.

It is difficult convincing our politicians of the obvious benefits of renewable energy. By the time they catch up we would like to see modern, safe technology used.

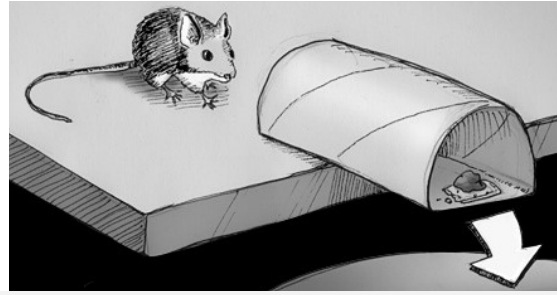
These options, and knowledge, need to be spread now.

**C**oconut oil is an emollient of choice with premature babies. Early studies found that using it topically improved weight gain and the condition of the delicate skin. It's anti microbial properties showed positive results in preventing infection.

Care needs to be taken with using oils if a baby is in a humidicrib, as the skin may overheat more easily.

**O**UR WILVOS HOTLINERS ARE AMAZING: Have you read the October edition of Calls from the Wild. Look up the Hotline in the Members Section on the website to read all the statistics lovingly compiled by Lisa! November is shaping up even worse than the 752 calls in October.

'3,840 Hotline Calls have been entered in Wildman in 2019 – on average 81% of the shifts have data entered – let's make that 100%' . Some are a little late entering their data. The percentage of Fauna Records entered are similar. To have everyone recording this data is just one of the best things we can do to ensure the future of our native animals. Thank you all. I know it is not always easy when we get busy.



1. Get a toilet paper tube and crease two lines to form a flat sided tunnel.
2. Put a treat on one end of the tube: A cracker and dab of peanut butter works great.
3. Get a tall (at least 50cm) bucket. A rubbish bin works well.
4. Balance the tube precariously on the edge of a table or counter with the treat hanging directly over the tall sided bin
5. The mouse will scurry to the treat (they like tunnels) and fall into the trap.

*Sorry..I can't remember who sent this to me but it does work..and you can easily see and identify the animal, without it being harmed.*

WILVOS do have possum traps for loan. These are NOT for catching and relocating possums. Our permit does not allow for that. These traps are to be used if an injured animal needs to be caught for veterinary treatment.

Should you need one, details are on the Contact List, Hotliners will have a list or ring someone on the committee and they will advise the location of the closest trap.



I love Esther McPhie's fundraising set up, supporting 'Babies of the Bush'. Her father, Dale, built the great little cart. Esther has raised thousands of dollars for Wildlife Warriors. If you are a Veterinarian on the north side of Brisbane this amazing lass is looking to do a day a week traineeship at a vets, while studying vet nursing online during Year 10.



Our members of the public can do amazing things to help our wildlife. Thank you to this caller who rang the Hotline concerned about what he thought were small possums. He went off and brought the materials to make this wonderful drey setup.

This was so thoughtful and so caring of our wildlife. They weren't possums, but all animals need our care and respect.



**D**on't forget: Put thermometers in your aviary and check temperature. Remote weather stations on top of nestbox, that you can constantly check while in the house are good. Don't have an exposed iron roof. Cover with sleepers heaps of palm fronds (held down with chicken wire).

**C**lean water each day. Dish at least deep as length of birds beak and twice as wide as length of birds beak.

**A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO MAX COLLINGS WHO HAS BEEN MAKING 'MAX' CAGES FOR WILVOS FOR MANY YEARS, ALONG WITH HELPING BOB WHITING WITH THE POSSUM BOXES.**

**THE 'MAX CAGES' HAVE BEEN A VERSATILE CAGE FOR SMALL REHABILITATING BIRDS AND POSSUMS, OR ADULT ANIMALS THAT NEEDED TO BE CONFINED TO A SMALLER PLACE BEFORE 'MUSCLING' UP IN AN AVIARY.**

**THANK YOU MAX. YOUR TIME AND SKILLS HAVE BEEN MUCH APPRECIATED.**

**BEST WISHES FROM ALL AT WILVOS.**

**T**hank you to Jeff Bruce, whose transporting job turned into capturing a possum out of a sink and taking it to RSPCA's Eumundi Wildlife Centre. The poor possum had been locked in the house for a few days. After rehydration, food and rest it was happy to go back home into the trees.



**CARERS & HOTLINERS**  
Read all the information on your members page of the website so you are up-to-date with what's happening in the Rehabilitation and Hotline sector.

Another very observant caller to the Hotline was concerned about an echidna he moved off the road. Though it had dug in off the side of the road after he placed it there, he felt that it just wasn't moving as well as it should.

The echidna did need to be checked over. He was kept at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital for a few days before returning to my care. He loved his water, and I have good heavy water trays for them to drink out of. Echidnas always love a bath as well, especially in warm weather, and they are funny to watch in water.

After a week of digging in my yard, and hiding under my garden mulch, he was doing everything right so was able to be returned home. That always brings joy to the heart....Donna

**REMINDER:** Please advise AZWH of your outcomes and transfers to other carers, of wildlife received from the Australian Wildlife Hospital. Email:

[hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au](mailto:hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au)

Advise the Accession Number of the animal.

Put this AZWH Accession Number on your WildMan record entry, where it says Vet No.

If you enter AZWH 34658, for example, then all those records coming from the wildlife hospital are easy to be found later when you do a Control F.

**Thank you—your records help save our wildlife.**

***Our possum growth charts, originally produced about 20 years ago are continually updated and it is your information that helps with this.***



Donny, the Masked Lapwing.

## RECRUITMENT

Do you think WILVOS need more wildlife carers? Yes, you can help!

Don't forget to print out some WILVOS recruitment posters. Email [enquiries@wilvos.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au) for same if you didn't download one from Lisa's email in October. Ask your local vets and shops if you can put them up somewhere. Thank you Olivia for these. We always need more carers, hotliners and transporters.

## Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc. (WILVOS) Co-ordinating Team for 2019/20

Please direct your calls to the relevant people when making enquiries

*ie Membership enquiries to Sylvia (Or advice, confidential complaints, praise!)*

THANK YOU TO ALL TEAM MEMBERS & HELPERS WHO GIVE SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. It may not be as rewarding as active caring, but it is a very necessary part of an efficient organization.

**\*\*\* Management Committee**

Monthly meetings held 2nd Monday each month. All welcome. Email secretary for details.

FUNCTION	E-MAIL	OFFICER	PHONE
***WILVOS Chair	<a href="mailto:chair@wilvos.org.au">chair@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
***WILVOS Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wilvos.org.au">treasurer@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sharon Brennan	0409 755 572
***WILVOS Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@wilvos.org.au">secretary@wilvos.org.au</a>	Lisa Domagala	5313 3173 0418 193 137
***WILVOS Vice Chair (1) & Minute Secretary	<a href="mailto:info@wilvos.org.au">info@wilvos.org.au</a>	Joyce Thompson	5441 7658 0417 873 481
***Vice Chair (2)		Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Community Awareness	<a href="mailto:awareness@wilvos.org.au">awareness@wilvos.org.au</a>	Roslyn Ann Leslie	5485 0056
WILVOS Data Returns & Wildlife Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:returns@wilvos.org.au">returns@wilvos.org.au</a>	Kay Dawson (Email Kay for grouping of wildlife)	0412 671 846
WILVOS Environment	<a href="mailto:lyndall_pettett@hotmail.com">lyndall_pettett@hotmail.com</a>	Lyndall Pettett	
WILVOS Enquiries	<a href="mailto:enquiries@wilvos.org.au">enquiries@wilvos.org.au</a>	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Fundraising		Rosemary Dax	5475 4455
WILVOS Grants	<a href="mailto:grants@wilvos.org.au">grants@wilvos.org.au</a>	Irene Krajewska	5459 1400 0407 126 750
WILVOS Hotline	<a href="mailto:hotline@wilvos.org.au">hotline@wilvos.org.au</a>	Lisa Domagala	5313 3173 0418 193 137
WILVOS Hotline Training	<a href="mailto:hotline@wilvos.org.au">hotline@wilvos.org.au</a>	Rachel Aspinall	0407 881 008
WILVOS Website Members Page Registration & Passwords and Contact List Changes	<a href="mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au">membership@wilvos.org.au</a> Email this address when joining or if you don't have your login details/password.	Sylvia Whiting (Sylvia will check membership status & pass on to Lisa Domagala)	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Membership	<a href="mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au">membership@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:newsletter@wilvos.org.au">newsletter@wilvos.org.au</a>	Donna Brennan	0413 861 757
WILVOS Releases	<a href="mailto:releases@wilvos.org.au">releases@wilvos.org.au</a> <a href="mailto:cc_neetyneets@hotmail.com">cc_neetyneets@hotmail.com</a>	Ashley Trebilcock Anita Trimarchi	0413 315 207 (Kat & Garry Kentwell will help out also.)
WILVOS Workshop Bookings	<a href="mailto:workshops@wilvos.org.au">workshops@wilvos.org.au</a>	Helen Stewart	0428 991 026 5445 7762

When looking for rehabilitation advice it's always best to check within your own group before asking on social media sites.



### PLEASE NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING CO-ORDINATORS WHEN THESE SPECIES COME INTO YOUR CARE.

WILVOS Bats	<a href="mailto:bats@wilvos.org.au">bats@wilvos.org.au</a>	Terrie Ridgway	0487 930 903
WILVOS Macropods	<a href="mailto:membership@wilvos.org.au">membership@wilvos.org.au</a>	Sylvia Whiting	5446 7760 0400 125 807
WILVOS Raptors		Jackie Fraser	5499 9057

Thank you to the SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL for supporting WILVOS through their Environment Levy Program.



***"Oh dear, we are lucky to have such a dedicated bunch of wonderful people to learn from.  
I appreciate all you do. "***

What lovely words from one of our newer young carers, who is always busy transporting and caring for numerous birds. At the moment, WILVOS have an amazing number of young carers who are truly committed to their wildlife in care. It is the youngest group of carers WILVOS have ever had, and they are doing great work. In between working and studying they are managing to be dedicated and skilled wildlife rehabilitators. Darrian has totally fallen in love with tawny frogmouth chicks, and currently has over a dozen birds of various species in care! Her knowledge, and thirst for more knowledge, is a credit to her.

I love too the fact that carers are happy to give input to the organization. It is easy to sit back and criticize, but to take the time to email in with a helpful suggestion shows commitment to improvement. Thank you Lizzi. (A young lady with the best powers of observation with her wildlife in care!) Lizzi is in an area that is constantly needing a rescuer or a carer and she is run off her feet. It is not unusual for her to receive 10 calls in a 24 hour period and that is as a carer, not while on Hotline duty.

It is imperative that carers don't overload themselves, and it is very important that carers ask for help if feeling overwhelmed. Support is always at hand and it is inspiring to see how carers help each other out.

**CONGRATULATIONS ALL WILVOS FOR RECENTLY BEING Channel 7's "Heroes of the Week".**

Have a safe and happy Christmas with family and friends and all the best for 2020.....Donna

If undelivered please return to:

**Wildlife Volunteers Assoc. Inc  
PO Box 4805  
Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560**



[www.wilvos.org.au](http://www.wilvos.org.au)

**Thank you to Cooroy "Smarty Pants Kindy" and the Buderim Retirement Village for the lovely pouches given to WILVOS.**

CHILDREN FROM COOROY 'SMARTY PANTS KINDY' DEMONSTRATE THEIR BOTTLE FEEDING SKILLS AS THEY LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIVE ANIMALS WITH A VISIT BY WILVOS COMMUNITY AWARENESS OFFICER, ROSLYN LESLIE.

