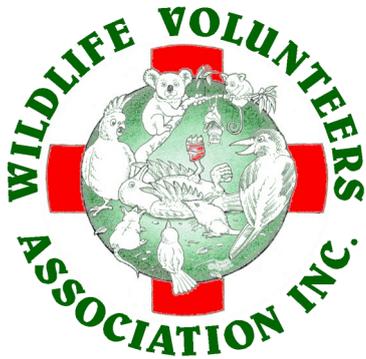


# WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

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[Click here](#) for the Code of Practice for Sick, Injured or Orphaned Wildlife in Qld.

Welcome to all our wonderful new members at the February 2025 Induction Day. It is great to see families come along because the younger members of the family are wanting to learn about our Australian native wildlife. All are welcomed into the WILVOS wildlife family.

**T**hank you to all our members who have taken on the care of wildlife over past months. There has been a continuous need, with no 'let up'. Our new members have done so well.

It is not easy as a new wildlife carer, with so much information out there. Observing and researching an animals' natural habitat and behaviour improves the success rate for rehabilitated native animals.

With foods fed to wildlife there are 'zoo diets' for those kept in zoos and 'rehabilitation diets' for those native animals that are injured or orphaned, and will be released back to their habitat. Don't get lazy! Keep up the foraging!

Our animals in care require a large variety of native foods and we are so lucky to live in an area of Australia where plant life thrives! There are also so many hardy native plants—groundcover, shrubs, trees, and grasses that can be easily grown in the smallest suburban gardens and in plant containers, that can be moved in and out of aviaries.

Human fruits and vegetables should not be given to our wildlife, unless the equivalent native food is unavailable - these animals are not going to find a supermarket out there. The nutrition levels in our native plants is so much higher and more natural for them. A syzygium fruit straight off the tree (or immediately frozen) has far more nutrient for a frugivore (and for us!) than a piece of fruit that has been in refrigerated cold storage for days/weeks. Fresh native flowers have nectar and protein that is far better than a total diet of artificial supplements. Fresh grass seeds, nuts, bark, fungi, insects...the list goes on. Wildlife in your care? Check out their wild habits!

Happy caring...



An old photo of a hungry WILVO possum enjoying her foliage

## LIMITED NUMBERS

**Don't miss out** on the drey and bird drop net making workshop coming up on Sunday 18th May 1 - 4pm. Bob (thank you!) cuts the materials to size ready to assemble. You take home your masterpieces! It is a great chance to meet others. Bring along a plate of 'goodies' to share for afternoon tea.

RSVP 4TH MAY 2025  
workshops@wilvos.org.au

Wildman Calendar Year 2024 – 97% of shifts had data entered in Dec

Outcome	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	2024 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	92	121	139	187	1161
Advice Only	92	148	157	145	1006
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	46	55	80	63	574
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	31	63	59	58	441
Referred to Bat Association	9	10	40	49	318
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	35	28	35	27	309
Referred to another organisation	20	28	27	32	273
Other - See Notes	14	13	10	21	214
Euthanased	15	23	18	15	181
Died	17	16	21	13	169
Not Found	19	15	12	17	167
WILVOS took to vet	7	5	15	18	127
Escaped	14	12	14	13	116
In Care	8	15	9	10	106
Released	7	9	4	8	88
Dead on Arrival	7	8	5	7	76
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	6	5	11	12	74
Reunited	6	9	16	12	45
Awaiting Rescue	0	1	5	10	16
Unknown	1	1	0	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>5465</b>

The above statistics for the amount of phonecalls that come through the WILVOS 5441 6200 Hotline in 2024 are amazing. Though there are supposedly more wildlife rehabilitation groups around south-east Queensland, WILVOS are still getting a big increase in the number of calls. Why??? WILVOS have wonderful Hotline volunteers who answer the phone 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Yes, even Nick while travelling around Australia, and Jennifer after moving interstate.

WIRES in New South Wales provides the following free online course for interested people of all ages. Just sign up for a free account with your email address and then log in. The course gives valuable basic knowledge on our Australian native animals.

<https://wirestraining.org.au/community-course-enrolment/>

## My First Possum Experience with WILVOs:

Caring for Pretzel, an orphaned Common Brushtail Possum, became a nightly ritual that illuminated our lives in unexpected ways. Each evening, we would gather to prepare her meals.

My 8 year old daughter Ona, took great joy in foraging for the native flora that surrounded us, learning to identify the best natives for Pretzel. It was heartening to see her hands dive into the underbrush, picking out the very same greens that our little friend would graze upon. Helping prepare her milk, and toilet little Pretzel, soon became our daily ritual. Pretzel began to weave her way into our hearts.

I watched in admiration as my daughter gently fed her, marveling at the mutual trust they developed. It was in these quiet moments that we discovered the beauty of connection—not just between us and Pretzel, but also with the environment. We learned about the crucial role possums play in our ecosystem, helping to maintain the balance of our local flora. Through this experience, we felt a profound sense of responsibility—not just for Pretzel but for all the creatures that inhabit our world.

It was a privilege to witness my daughter blossom as a caretaker, her small hands holding the weight of a big heart. I often found myself reflecting on how important it is to nurture a love for wildlife in the young. As the weeks passed, our bond with Pretzel deepened, and so did our commitment to wildlife conservation. It was no longer just about caring for one possum; it was about becoming part of a larger mission to protect our native species. The knowledge we acquired through WILVOs opened our eyes to the wonders of nature right in our backyard. We can't wait to help more wildlife around us .  
.....Natalie



*Thank you Natalie and Ona. You did a wonderful job caring for Pretzel.*

**H**opefully everyone has recovered from recent inclement weather events. It seems a long time since we've seen the water trucks around delivering to empty water tanks.

With all the trees that have come down, it can be a good time to collect good solid barky branches of varying sizes for your aviaries. Ideally your birds feet will go no more than 3/4 around the smallest branch. Besides horizontal branches, don't forget to have a couple running up from the ground to the above branches also.

One branch that is a little free-swinging improves agility. Though not as hygienic, for dexterity a good thick rope may also be added. Avoid thin rope, as unless taut, it may lead to entanglement of limbs.

Doves and pigeons have very distinctive beaks compared with other birds.



The topknot pigeon is large and robust, even as a chick. The crested pigeons, delicate little birds, are often called topknots.

Please report sightings of koalas with location by phone, relevant websites or on the koala sighting app:

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/koalas/report-sightings>

**IS THE NUMBER ON YOUR HOUSE OR LETTERBOX CLEARLY VISIBLE DAY AND NIGHT?**

**LET PEOPLE KNOW IF NUMBERS ARE DIFFICULT TO SEE, AS WE DON'T TAKE NOTE OF OUR OWN HOUSE NUMBERING.**

**Carers, Have you read through all the information in Carers Resources on the Carer's section of the website?**

## REQUEST FROM AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

To ensure up-to-date records, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital would ask that carers email patient outcome details to [hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au](mailto:hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au) on a **monthly basis**. Ideally, the first of each month.

**\*Note to WILVO Carers:** When you record the animal details in the WildMan database it is helpful to scroll down to the Vet heading and to enter AZWH 45678 or EWRC 246810 (the number is the patients admittance number at the top of the admittance sheet). Then, for the search of animals in your records, under each Status - Released, Died, Escaped etc, all you have to do is Control F and put in AZWH or EWRC and you can find Outcomes to forward to these wildlife centres.

**R**oslyn Leslie, WILVOS Community Awareness Officer, occasionally regales us with stories from her school visits. Often Hotliners find out the reason WILVOS receive the phonecall to help wildlife is because of Roslyn's presentation at one of the many schools she visits.

One of the examples of this was when Rex, around 11 or 12 years of age, found a Tawny Frogmouth on the ground. When his father approached it, the bird tried to fly but fell down. They contained the Tawny in a carton and took it to RSPCA's Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

Rex knew what to do and who to call - **WILVOS** - because of Roslyn's school visit. For visits to schools or community groups contact Roslyn

[awareness@wilvos.org.au](mailto:awareness@wilvos.org.au)

**CHECK OUT THE WORKSHOP CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE AND BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**SOME WORKSHOPS HAVE LIMITED NUMBERS.**

**ALSO THERE MAY BE VENUE/TIME CHANGES. THESE MAY BE DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER PREDICTIONS OR ELECTIONS WHERE THE HALL IS NEEDED FOR VOTING.**

**V**olunteers on the WILVOS 24 hour Hotline soon find out that all may not be what it seems when a call is received about wildlife in distress. An interstate call about an echidna puggle was quickly handled by contacting a wildlife organization down in that area. The puggle was actually a wombat. With any wildlife it is good to get people to send a photo on their mobile phone. Baby rats may actually be feathertail gliders, antechinus may be native or feral rats, kookaburra chicks quite often turn out to be doves.

Coser to home, help for a cockatoo that couldn't fly - it was a pekin bantam! It checked out fine. Kindness to any animal is always a priority.



An echidna puggle after a feed. Chubby like a wombat!

**C**arers: When you have animals come into care ensure that the supplies you have are fresh. **STORE IN SEALED CONTAINERS IN THE FRIDGE.** When you get milk formula from me it is fresh....and date is on the bottle of when it is jarred. I get new supplies constantly. I jar it into sterilised moccona jars as they are airtight. Always use dry utensils to dispense milk and keep in a dark cool place. Once animals move on - seal in a container with date marked on it. Don't ever feed supplies you have had too long. When you pass an animal on, hand over the food to the next person or seal well, write on the date, and freeze.

Subsidized food is a privilege, not an entitlement. The costs of wildlife food products has increased and we are so lucky not to have to meet these costs out of our own pockets. Thank you WILVOS.

Go online to this website for books that will expand your knowledge of many of our wildlife species.

<https://www.michaelandnorma.com/animals/normas-books-and-manuals/>