

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)

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www.wilvos.org.au

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

RECORD KEEPING IS NOT OPTIONAL. IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF HOLDING A WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE



The past twelve months has been a 'dasyurid' adventure. There was an increase of carnivorous marsupials coming into WILVOS' care this past year. Following the brush-tailed phascogales rehabilitation and release came the antechinus. What made these rehabilitations so rewarding was the fact that they could be returned to their home territory which, in both cases, was a long way away from suburbia and domestic pets.

Thanks to Jan and Russ who drove for an hour to bring the antechinus to me, and then drove back a couple of months later to collect them on release day. To see them grow through the stages of development from 2 grams and 3 grams to 30+ grams was fascinating.

I thought I'd try some experimentation with a different style of nest, in comparison to a nestbox. A couple of ideas were trialled but the phascogales, after free-ranging in my patio for the night, would always be snuggled up in their pouch by morning. They liked dreys but I wanted a more compact solution, so decided to roll up the inside liner of a hanging basket and secure it with ties. Within a minute of fastening this 'log' above the pouch, one cheeky antechinus came out, went straight into the entrance, peeked out to say 'hello' and proceeded to the other end to poke his head out there. Next morning all four had vacated the pouch and were in their 'nestlog'. Wildlife caring is a continuing education!.....Donna

"Proudly Supported by the Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy".

REMINDER FOR POSSUM CARERS:

You may infect them or they may infect you.

*Don't let your possums lick your skin. Who knows what pathogens lurk there!

*Don't let your possums scratch you. Bacterial infections may be a result. Rare, but very serious bacterial diseases such as Tularaemia also exist.

BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ZONOTIC DISEASES.

MACROPOD CARERS—COCCIDIOSIS ALERT

ALWAYS A WORRY AFTER THIS WET WEATHER.

The following information is from the 2018 Australian Wildlife Conference presentation by wildlife veterinarian Derek Spielman on Coccidiosis of Macropods and other Species.

Observation is a major weapon against macropod diseases. Early intervention is always necessary.

Every carer should research wildlife diseases.

Check out past papers www.awrc.org.au

Coccidia in Macropods

- Coccidia are strongly host specific
- some species are shared between kangaroos and wallabies,
- others are species specific: cause disease in a particular host species but not in other species
- immature stages can destroy much of the gut lining (mucosa) which can cause death before the mature forms of coccidia even develop

Summary

- outbreaks in captivity can be precipitated by the above stresses plus
 - strangers
 - changes to feeding or routine
 - transporting or relocating
 - confinement
 - poor hygiene
 - loneliness or separation

Busy time for snakes now the weather has warmed up. They do slow down a little in winter which gives the prey species a bit of a break!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL TO COMPLETED THE WIRES 'INTRODUCTION TO WILDLIFE RESCUE' ONLINE TRAINING.

DON'T FORGET TO CONTACT SYLVIA WHEN GETTING CLOSE TO MOVING YOUR POSSUMS/GLIDERS INTO A NESTBOX OR DREY.

Eastern grey kangaroos are usually in care for about twelve months so there is a long pre-release period.

I am looking forward to our next release. One of the girls, Hannah, was found close to death in a paddock. She weighed in at 3kg and was a bag of bones and muddy fur. She decided she loved life and enjoyed getting very spoiled in that first week as she regained strength. I was cautious when initially taking her out into the yard, as often they can get agitated and then be difficult to catch. Definitely something a carer does not want to happen.

The gentle loving Hannah surprised me by being a complete lunatic when I wanted to return her to her pouch at dusk. She was still a little frail to leave out on a cold night. I'd guide her to the narrow side of the house and chat to her like some demented crackpot and she'd try to zoom past me at full pace. I'd quickly scoop her up and then she'd snuggle in. Each day she'd get closer to my legs as she'd scoot past, until one day she hopped, full pelt, into my stomach like a toddler jumping up for a cuddle. I was knocked off

balance—by impact or surprise! After that she was fine, and would let me pick her up in her pouch.

Each animal is so different, and some must go through dreadful traumas before arriving in our care.

To see them go to their final release paddocks is a joy. They have bonded as a mob and are ready for freedom.



Wildman Report January 2022.....Lisa Domagala

Hotline – 494 calls recorded in Wildman in January 2022. 100% of shifts had data entered . CONGRATULATIONS!

Outcome	Jan-22	2022 - All Calls
MOP taken to vet	103	103
Advice Only	67	67
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	62	62
Other - See Notes	55	55
At Wildlife Rehab Centre Eumundi	26	26
Referred to another organisation	24	24
Referred to Bat Association	23	23
Euthanased	22	22
In Care	19	19
Released	17	17
Died	16	16
Not Found	14	14
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	12	12
WILVOS took to vet	11	11
Awaiting Rescue	8	8
Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend	5	5
Dead on Arrival	5	5
Escaped	5	5
Unknown	0	0
	494	494

Reason for Call	Jan-22	2022 - All Calls
Injured - Cause unknown	119	119
Enquiry for well being of animal	115	115
Other - See Notes	45	45
Out of nest	38	38
Motor Vehicle Accident	37	37
Orphaned young	33	33
Seeking Advice - See notes	22	22
Needs carer	20	20
Dog Attack	16	16
Seeking Removal - See notes	14	14
Hit window	12	12
Cat attack	11	11
Caught in barbed Wire	5	5
Blown out of tree	4	4
Malnourished	2	2
Electrocution	1	1
Membership Enquiry	0	0
Unknown	0	0
	494	494

For wildlife supplies contact Donna info@wilvos.org.au

Also contact Donna if you want some native *plumbago zeylanica* cuttings.

The shrub *plumbago auriculata* is an invasive pest so if this is fed to possums, please dispose of responsibly so it does not take over our native habitat.

***Don't forget to do your weekly weighins of all wildlife in care and record in WildMan

Species	Animals entered in Wildman Jan 2022	Released in Jan 2022	Total in Care as at 31 Jan 2022
Bandicoot	0	0	0
Birds	154	86	132
Echidnas	0	3	0
Platypus	1	0	0
Possums	15	10	39
Gliders	4	8	5
Macropods	2	2	19
Reptiles	0	1	1
Dasyurids	1	0	5
Rats & Mice	1	0	2
Bats	0	0	0
TOTAL	178	110	203

FIND-A-FROG
IN-FEBRUARY

Please RSVP to obtain ZOOM access codes:
admin@mrccc.org.au
Phone 5482 4766

WEBINAR

“Find a Frog in February 2022!”

Join Eva Ford from the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

- 21st February 2022
- 6pm to 7.30pm - frog talk followed by discussion time
- Topics:
 - Frogs in the world
 - What we can do to look after them
 - Find a Frog in February program
 - Identifying your local frogs
- No Covid restrictions
- It's free to attend

Proudly supported by:

Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Council, Fraser Coast Regional Council

If rearing insects to feed to your wildlife, or purchasing insects, always ensure they are raised on clean, suitable substrate and that they are fed a good nutritious diet. We know very little about the pathogens in our ‘hand-raised bugs’. We don’t want to introduce diseases to our rehabilitating wildlife.

We are all used to wearing masks now. It is advisable to wear masks when cleaning out insect ‘farms’, bird cages, possum aviaries and macropod sheds. Covid has certainly reinforced the importance of washing hands!

Welcome to all our new members. If anyone needs help knowing what wildlife will suit them for their care, and what facilities are needed—call Sharon, Sylvia or Donna.

Record everything in WildMan, native or feral, even if in your care for just a short time for pick up or delivery, or you have given advice.

- ◆ Transfer if you send to someone else
- ◆ Record if an animal dies... Dead or alive statistics are equally important.
- ◆ Most records will match up with phone calls to the WILVOS Hotline. (or Facebook requests.)

REGISTER FOR THE NEXT ONLINE WILDMAN TRAINING
SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY.
HOTLINE 9AM TO 11AM
WILDMAN 11AM TO 12PM
RSVP TO hotline@wilvos.org.au TO RECEIVE LOGIN DETAILS.

CHECK THE WORKSHOP CALENDAR ON THE WILVOS WEBSITE. THERE MAY BE A NEW WORKSHOP OR CHANGES OF DATES/TIMES/VENUE.

CALCIUM BALANCE

We have all heard about, or experienced, metabolic bone disease in birds.

Calcium deficiency can be caused by a number of factors— a) not enough calcium in diet (feeding just seed or just meat diets), not enough Vitamin D (direct sunlight is vital, but not through window glass which blocks the beneficial UV rays), too much phosphorous in the diet (excess of oats, nuts, bran, lentils.)

The Calcium, Phosphorous, Vitamin D balance is important. The answer is not to haphazardly throw some calcium into the food. A teaspoon of calcium powder to 500 grams of food may be advised, but it is still best to check with your vet. They may be aware of what is causing the imbalance and will recommend accordingly. Too much calcium can be just as harmful as not enough calcium in the diet.

If raising young chicks in a brooder/humidicrib— ensure daily sunlight. Move them out as soon as possible into a more natural environment. (Still with warmth of course.)