

WILVOS Wildlife Whisperings

MAY 2020



Wildlife Volunteers Association Inc (WILVOS)
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CARERS: PLEASE EMAIL OUTCOMES OF ANIMALS IN CARE TO THE AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL.
hospital@wildlifewarriors.org.au

If you receive any native animals from AZWH they need to know what happens to this same animal—ie Transferred to another carer OR Died OR Euthanized OR Released. State the accession number.

Keep it simple: In the Subject Line put Accession No. #246810 and the status of the animal “Transferred to Mary Smith”, “Died”, or “Released”. Add further details in the body of the email.

As with all organizations, statistics are needed for funding and for research. This helps our native animals.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO RECORD THE ACCESSION NUMBER ON YOUR WILDMAN ENTRY UNDER ‘VET’.
ie AZWH #246810 It is then easy to find your AZWH animals by bring up all your records and doing a Control F to find your AZWH records.

When you collect any wildlife from the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, could you please fill your details out on the form at the front desk.

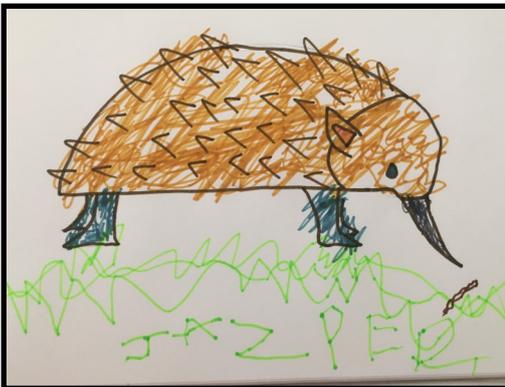
COMMUNITY AWARENESS

It takes more than “Lockdown” to stop our Community Awareness Officer, Roslyn Leslie, from educating children on wildlife.

During the past months Roslyn has been brightening the lives of many students—and teachers and parents—through the wonders of technology. WILVO carers have been sending Roslyn photos and videos and these are shared around the schools and kindergartens.

Through Zoom and emails Roslyn has answered the questions and concerns sent to her. “Who is looking after the wildlife if no one can leave home?”, “What will happen to the animals?”, “When will you come and visit us again?”. The children have enjoyed the stories of adventures and rescues by WILVOS, and have loved sharing their own native animal stories.

Roslyn reassured everyone that WILVOS were able to continue their special work. So many amazing drawings have been sent to Roslyn. It is very obvious that these students now have a wonderful interest in wildlife and the environment.



While Jasper was at home with his parents, missing Kindy and his friends, he drew this wonderful photo of an echidna.

Rather impressive, as many adults don't realize that echidna's rear feet face backwards!

Thank you Roslyn for enriching the lives of so many during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Thank you to all those carers who have participated in the Online Possum Training. We would like ALL our possum carers to refresh their caring techniques with this online course. Consistency of care helps our native animals immensely while rehabilitating with us.

TRANSPORTING EASTERN GREY KANGAROOS

The wildlife scenario I worry about the most is taking eastern grey kangaroos to their pre-release site. Though sad to see them go, I love seeing healthy animals off to the wild. It is the transporting that I fret about. Keeping them absolutely stress-free is imperative so the carers involved (Best if 2 max.) have to stay super calm and quiet as well. There is no room for error.

In saying that, Sylvia and I have never had any problems with transporting greys but there is always that possibility looming! It always goes like clockwork for us. The animals are suspended off the headrests in their lovely big carry bags, (thanks Becky, Debbie and the wonderful QCWA sewing ladies) and we are charging off down the road before the dozy macropods even realize this isn't just another morning nap! Thanks Bob for carrying the heavyweights to the car once Sylvia positions and ties them in their bags! Because they've been at Sylvias for months they stay relaxed if she alone is in the paddock and shed.

Covid-19 meant delaying transport of the latest seven greys, so they were getting pretty hefty. The largest animals had weighed in at over 15kg the week before so Sylvia had to start doing some serious weight training!

I was determined to carry seven in my car in one trip as it is really important for the mob to arrive together, and for us to be able to observe them as we travelled. They would notice if any of their mates were missing on arrival!

I decided that number seven kangaroo could hang off a bar if installed across from the drivers seat to the passenger seat. Sylvia's Bob to the rescue! He disappeared into his shed and soon emerged with a couple of instantly made brackets and a steel bar that was perfect.

So.... three hung behind the front seats, three hung off the back seats and one hung off the middle rear headrest, facing the back window in the cargo area. (After I'd hauled out all the unnecessary 'flooring' in the back. I love X Trails. They are the best kangaroo transporters!)

We did have to improvise with a 6pack esky over the middle rear headrest, so it was high enough to ensure the transporting bag was suspended off the floor, but it worked perfectly!

We arrived at our destination well over an hour later and I just said to Sylvia, "Gee, we are GOOD!Donna

It is possible that listening to us talk quietly in the car may act like another dose of Diazepam! Macropods don't like loud voices.



All were relaxed when let out of their carry bags in the paddock. Only one did a little paw licking for a while.

A macropod workshop will be on the workshop calendar once life returns to normal.



Rehabilitation methods with macropods seem to vary immensely. The internet is a scary place! I see fully furred animals contained in bags inside when they should be spending their day grazing or lying on the grass or jumping in and out of their pouches. They need muscle to support those long, lean legs. In the above photo, these two grey kangaroos, that had been in care less than two weeks, are learning to relax and enjoy the winter sunshine and learn about the different grass flavours! Lena on the left was 990g and Jangles was 1.5kg. Lena is a very petite lass! Looking at the records of Velvet and JoJo I see that at 1.5 kg Velvet was hopping out of her bag and grazing beside it and hopping back in when she wanted to. JoJo followed the same behavioural milestones. Soon after 2kg they would hang outside all night in their pouches. Their mothers would never allow them to stay in their pouch all day and all night!

Wildman Report April 2020

Lisa Domagala

Hotline - 456 calls were recorded in Wildman in April 2020. 110 out of 120 shifts had data entered – 91.7%.

| Outcome | Feb-20 | Mar-20 | Apr-20 | 2020 - All Calls | Reason for Call | Feb-20 | Mar-20 | Apr-20 | 2020 - All Calls |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| MOP taken to vet | 138 | 87 | 103 | 515 | Injured - Cause unknown | 155 | 101 | 137 | 586 |
| Advice Only | 92 | 77 | 80 | 419 | Enquiry for well being of animal | 96 | 77 | 77 | 356 |
| At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations | 25 | 29 | 52 | 158 | Abandoned young | 56 | 51 | 71 | 270 |
| Referred to another organisation | 36 | 29 | 25 | 144 | Other - See Notes | 47 | 37 | 32 | 199 |
| In Care | 31 | 20 | 40 | 119 | Motor Vehicle Accident | 50 | 41 | 31 | 165 |
| Other - See Notes | 29 | 19 | 28 | 110 | Seeking Advice - See notes | 14 | 16 | 25 | 82 |
| WILVOS took to vet | 25 | 32 | 15 | 100 | Needs carer | 19 | 14 | 10 | 62 |
| Euthanased | 22 | 11 | 26 | 88 | Out of nest | 11 | 8 | 16 | 60 |
| Aust Zoo Rescue Team to attend | 34 | 15 | 12 | 84 | Dog Attack | 15 | 14 | 14 | 57 |
| Referred to Bat Association | 29 | 19 | 15 | 75 | Seeking Removal - See notes | 12 | 13 | 16 | 49 |
| Died | 19 | 18 | 13 | 63 | Cat attack | 10 | 13 | 10 | 45 |
| Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv | 8 | 6 | 14 | 37 | Hit window | 11 | 7 | 6 | 38 |
| Released | 5 | 13 | 5 | 34 | Caught in barbed Wire | 11 | 3 | 4 | 21 |
| Not Found | 6 | 5 | 17 | 32 | Membership Enquiry | 1 | 2 | 2 | 18 |
| Escaped | 8 | 6 | 2 | 24 | Blown out of tree | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 |
| Dead on Arrival | 2 | 6 | 4 | 20 | Malnourished | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| Awaiting Rescue | 7 | 8 | 5 | 14 | Unknown | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Unknown | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | Electrocution | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | 516 | 402 | 456 | 2038 | | 516 | 402 | 456 | 2038 |

PLEASE ADVISE ANITA & ASH A MONTH BEFORE YOUR POSSUMS ARE DUE FOR RELEASE.... FOLLOW UP 2 WEEKS LATER.
RELEASE TAKES PLANNING.



Thanks to Lizzi George for giving the Logan family some practical guidance as they enter the world of ringtail possum rehabilitation! If their returned Possum Training Assessment Form is any indication, we have some talented new possum carers.
Wildlife caring is a serious commitment and it is good to see it treated as such. As carers, we are privileged to have the opportunity to learn about our unique native animals.

ANIMALS IN CARE SUMMARY

| Species | Came into Care in April 2020 | Died, Euthanased, Other in April | Released in April 2020 | Total in Care as at 30 April 2020 |
|--------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bandicoot | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Birds | 122 | 43 | 66 | 76 |
| Echidna | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Platypus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Possums | 28 | 10 | 15 | 90 |
| Gliders | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Macropods | 9 | 6 | 6 | 18 |
| Reptiles | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Dasyurids | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rats & Mice | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 164 | 60 | 92 | 194 |

Total released in 2020 to date = 413



Photo: Darrian Browning
Darrian's first northern brown bandicoot in care. He has been provided with a great habitat where he can make his own nest as he would in the wild.

PLEASE NOTE: THOSE HIGHLIGHTED IN ORANGE ON THE CONTACT LIST WILL TRAVEL OUT OF THEIR AREA. THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE AVAILABLE TO HELP.



A big “Thank you” to our newer carers who are doing an amazing job. Samantha has done so well with her first brushtails and is now happy to take on a little ringtail colony. The Hungerford family provided a wonderful release site for various wildlife. Keith Porteous has learned a lot about peewees, and has just done his first bat rescue. Thank you to William for being such a good mentor for this rescue, and for many others.

Meanwhile some of the ‘old hands’ are excelling also: Kate is the Pigeon Princess. See the Brown Cuckoo Dove and the Wompoo Fruit Dove on the left, both coming to Kate’s care as compromised young chicks. Anita is the Brush Turkey Wrangler!

The McPhie family have just passed on Mr Whippy, a gorgeous whiptail wallaby. Having reared a swamp wallaby, and a red-necked wallaby prior to this—they now realize what macropod carers mean when they talk about that ‘whippy’ attitude!

Please contact Donna to purchase wildlife food supplies, a Snugglesafe Heat Pad (\$48 approx.) or a WILVOS Car Magnet (\$10).

At future workshops, pick up some brochures and business cards to hand out when rescuing any wildlife. When your possums are ready contact Sylvia for a possum box or possum drey.

Incredible work has been done with detection dogs in locating threatened native animal and plant species, (and pest species when required). Their work with Quolls, Koalas, Powerful Owls and Greater Gliders is inspiring. We are lucky here in south-east Queensland to have the wonderful team of Detection Dogs for Conservation based at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Greater Gliders have to be the most exquisite animal on the planet! I was spell-bound at the first ones I saw. The mother was a dark charcoal colour and the joey was a cute white little bundle of joy. Their incredibly fluffy 60 cm long tails and big ears just add to their beauty. The tiny pea size faecal pellets are hard to find! Hence detection dogs to the rescue!

Greater gliders can glide up to 100 metres. They use multiple hollows and destruction of our majestic tall, old-growth trees is a tragedy for this species. All that fur is deceiving, as these gliders only weigh up to 1.7 kg, and most are well under this. The gliding membrane extends from the elbow rather than the wrist as in other glider species.

It is now breeding time for these unique animals. Mating begins in March, with births through to June.

I don’t think Sylvia wants a long-term Greater Glider ever again. Her last little one meant over six months of very selective foliage gathering!



PLEASE..... if you have any problems with wildlife in care, call an experienced carer as soon as possible. The animal can be assessed and treated as needed. This will prevent unnecessary vet visits and stress to the animal. Those first 24 hours of care, or those first 24 hours when an animal becomes sick, can be a life or death situation. Prompt attention is necessary. Delay can mean death.

Not all native animals are cute and cuddly but all are as important as each other. To lose our moths would be an ecological disaster. They are great pollinators at night and 60% of our bird species feed on moths.

Don’t forget to keep referring to your Possum Progress Charts. These are updated as necessary. The latest edition is always found on the Members Page for Carers, on the website. Ringtail possums fed at 20% of their bodyweight when very small. Around 80g they will be nibbling on leaftip and at this stage they are only fed 15%, unless compromised. Weigh daily in those early stages. Always check with an experienced carer.