

# 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.

**W**e are coming up to the worst time of year for Hotline calls about nocturnal animals being hit on the roads.

Early darkness means that animals begin to emerge at the same time that everyone is driving home from work. This is a recipe for disaster.

Make sure you have a supply of pillowslips, (good quality, not threadbare!) in your car. Flannelette is cosy in these cooler months. Always turn them inside out so there are no loose threads for the animals to get caught up in.

Animals won't suffocate when the pillowslip is tied up tightly at the top, as they can still comfortably breathe inside. It will ensure they don't escape into your car!

Pillowslips may be used for macropods, possums, birds, reptiles and of course echidnas.



Thank you to those attending our recent workshops.

A large range of topics were presented by Dr Derek Spielman. As always he was very happy to share his practical experiences as well as knowledge gained from years of extensive research into wildlife.

Dr Lyndall Pettett, again through her practical and academic background, imparted so much information on preparation and release of wildlife. This will be continued at her habitat walk.

## Have you checked out Hotline Resources on the Active Members Page?

This information is for all carers and hotliners. Carers often ask questions that are either in Hotline Resources or in the Carer Resources section.

Don't forget the **Useful Numbers List** in Hotline Resources. This covers various species, along with information about various government departments and wildlife groups in other areas. With the seagrass beds being impacted by the weather the marine turtle contacts may be needed.

Always know what to do if a call comes in for a macropod hit by a car. It's good to have already read up on this information in your **Guidelines for Hotline Volunteers Part 1**.



## Hotline Statistics May 2022.....Lisa Domagala.

Outcome	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	2022 - All Calls
Advice Only	67	73	43	34	27	244
At Australia Zoo for treatment/observations	64	51	42	24	20	201
At WRC Eumundi	27	26	38	27	20	138
Aust Zoo Rescue Team	5	10	16	8	10	49
Awaiting Rescue	0	0	0	6	10	16
Contacted Wilvos member to provide phone adv	12	8	10	6	8	44
Dead on Arrival	5	6	6	8	2	27
Died	17	18	11	6	3	55
Escaped	5	9	8	6	4	32
Euthanased	24	19	14	9	7	73
In Care	17	13	16	9	6	61
MOP taken to vet	103	95	95	55	65	413
Not Found	17	11	14	4	6	52
Other - See Notes	55	58	48	45	55	261
Referred to another org.	24	11	14	7	13	69
Referred to Bat Association	23	20	19	9	5	76
Released	17	10	8	5	6	46
Unknown	0	0	0	0	3	3
WILVOS took to vet	11	14	13	15	17	70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1930</b>

Reason for Call	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	2022 - All Calls
Blown out of tree	3	11	4	2	2	22
Cat attack	11	6	7	0	4	28
Caught in barbed Wire	5	3	5	4	3	20
Dog Attack	16	12	6	5	3	42
Electrocution	1	0	0	0	1	2
Enquiry animals well being	115	135	101	70	90	511
Hit window	12	11	11	6	10	50
Injured - Cause unknown	119	101	112	76	72	480
Malnourished	2	2	0	0	1	5
Membership Enquiry	0	1	1	3	0	5
Motor Vehicle Accident	37	37	46	34	27	181
Needs carer	20	18	22	9	9	78
Orphaned young	32	17	20	9	7	85
Other - See Notes	45	37	31	29	36	178
Out of nest	39	30	6	10	7	92
Seeking Advice - See notes	22	19	31	16	13	101
Seeking Removal SeeNotes	14	12	12	10	2	50
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1930</b>


 ur appreciation, as always, to all our wonderful Hotliners. You are the first port of call for wildlife needing help. It is our quietest time of year, but it is often a time of the most complex calls. You make a difference! Thank you.



### Squirrel Gliders are such exquisite little mammals.

When they are young with just pale fur on their tummy, it is easy to see they have drunk their milk!

The little female on the left is ready for her feed, while the boy on the left has had his fill! That milk needs to be digested before the next feed.

Squirrel gliders often worry people because their eyes have not opened, even though they have fur. That's the way they are, but when they open, it is worth waiting for!



### ECHIDNAS ON THE MOVE



o An echidna cannot bite with its tiny mouth, and it has no poisonous spines.

- o Size is no indication of an echidna's age.
- o Sexual maturity is at around 5 years of age.
- o There are no obvious external reproductive organs.
- o The female forms a pouch just for the egg-laying occasion.
- o The winter months mean echidna mating time
- o Courtship could last from 1—6 weeks.
- o A female may be followed by 'train' of up to 10 males.
- o The female mates with only one male. Gestation is 23 days.
- o Female curls up in sitting position, depositing 1 egg in pouch.
- o Eggs are soft, white, texture of a grape, 14-16mm diameter.
- o Mum moves egg from one side of pouch to the other.
- o Some will go into a burrow till eggs hatch, others will continue on with usual foraging.
- o Eggs hatch after 10.5 days.
- o Pouch humidity is 90% for the first 14 days.
- o Eggs weigh 300mg—1/3 of a gram.
- o Takes 7-8 just hatched echidna eggs to weigh same as 5c coin
- o Once hatched, puggle has to pull itself as far as 6 times its body length to the milk 'patch'. There are no teats.
- o Puggle will grow 0.3g to 1g in 2 days, then to 30g in 14 days.
- o Mother carries this young puggle for 50 days.
- o Then she deposits puggle in burrow.
- o Burrow entrance usually curved and long and covered over.
- o Temperature of burrow is a cool 15 degrees.
- o Mother returns every about 5-6 days to feed.
- o Feeding may take 2 hours, as 40% of puggles bodyweight is drunk, as Mum lies on her side.
- o After 11 days pigmentation appears on beak.
- o Eyes open after a couple of weeks in burrow.
- o In 30-40 days there is a light fuzz on skin.
- o No longer a puggle, spined at 6 months, weaned 7 months.
- o Mother may forage up to 18 hours a day, travelling 1 or more kilometres and she can dig up to 1000 holes in search of termites and other tasty little bugs.

"THE ECHIDNA Australia's Enigma" Dr Peggy Rismiller

This is a wonderful book a result of so many years of research.

Most people know how fascinated I am by echidnas. A highlight of a holiday to Kangaroo Island some years ago was to stay with Peggy Rismiller and Mike McKelvey at the Kangaroo Island Pelican Lagoon Research Centre. We even went along on an echidna tracking adventure.

It was Peggy's book that prompted me to try out the feed-time test Echidnas have a large brain size compared to their body size and are very fast learners. About 20 years ago, I mimicked what I had read in this book, about banging rocks together at feed time (along with saying "Piccaninny, dinner time".) The young echidna I had in care soon learned to saunter out of the garden at this noise. I have since found out how responsive they are to voice. Then of course Novak, the echidna, became quite famous with his door opening routine. Channel 9 arrived at my place and he appeared on cue and showed how clever he was. They had to be patient but he couldn't resist opening that sliding door—screen or glass! A video is on WILVOS Facebook page.

The Kangaroo Island sub-species is listed as endangered and it is important to gather information on the mainland.

Echidna CSI have been researching through citizen science. Register, log in and report echidna sightings. There have been a large number of suburban echidna sightings....Donna



**W**hat amazing ‘bugs’ we have in our area (and in our cars!). Beware when trimming foliage for your native animals. The incredibly beautiful cup moth caterpillar, on the right, has his spines out and is ready to inflict a little pain! Spiders are often out late afternoon at the same time as we are gathering foliage.



**H**ow lovely to see our young people learning to give to others at this age. Gabby, Emy, Lexi and Indi arrived with a coffee jar of money (\$91.80) which they wanted to donate to help our native animals. These caring, delightful girls are just what our wildlife need for the future. They all had that natural gentle approach with animals.

**I**t is always good to have positive stories about habitat restoration, instead of the usual habitat destruction.

The Yurol Ringtail Conservation Project has been years in the planning and it great to see it reach fruition.

An area of 2400 hectares of the Yurol Ringtail State Forest will now join the Tewantin National Park forming a corridor through to the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy National Park.

This has been made possible through collaboration of Noosa Shire Council, Noosa Parks Association and State Government Departments, along with individuals passionate about the project.

**C**ontact Sylvia when your possums are ready for a nestbox or drey. These go with the possum (their security blanket!) throughout their rehabilitation. They are then released in this same nestbox. Housing is in short supply out there and though they don’t stay permanently in these boxes, they are also used by other animals and birds.

It is another way of helping them survive in the wild.

**HELPERS NEEDED AT QUEENSLAND GARDEN EXPO 8, 9, 10TH JULY**

Please email Judy on [judy.malc@bigpond.com](mailto:judy.malc@bigpond.com) if you can help for a few hours between the hours of 8am and 5pm on any day. The WILVOS information stall is part of Sunshine Coast Council’s Living Backyard. It is a great weekend. No selling, just information and wildlife stories!

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

**Contact Donna [info@wilvos.org.au](mailto:info@wilvos.org.au) for all food supplies. Please give plenty of notice.**

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

**RENEWAL INVOICES WILL BE EMAILED OUT SOON SO KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR THEM IN CASE THEY JUMP INTO SPAM!**