

Most frequently asked questions about road kill and what to do ~

When you come across an injured native animal, call the Emergency Number (Help for Wildlife: 0417 380 687) to get help, alternative numbers can be found in the Road Kill Brochure.

Stay far enough away so it is not distressed by your presence. Going too close will upset and cause as much stress to a wild animal such as a kangaroo, as much as being hit by a car and injured. Only people with experience should approach an injured or distressed animal.



Birds are intelligent creatures that usually bond for life. They are affectionate toward each other and faithfully tend to their family. When a partner is killed on the road, they will grieve and not leave the body, sometimes getting killed themselves. Baby birds cannot fend for themselves.

Q. Why do animals use and access roads?

- A. Wildlife use ancient routes and pathways to access water, to eat dead animals (carrion) - or reptiles warm up on the black bitumen road surface - native species follow ancient routes that roads transect, preventing access to available vegetation and breeding grounds .



Q. What types of injuries do wildlife road accident victims endure?

- A. They suffer broken bones, smashed bodies, horrific injuries which sometimes kills them, but they may leave a live baby in the pouch, if a wallaby, kangaroo, koala or possum.

Q. How do wildlife carers work?

- A. Wildlife carers have been highly trained to care for injured native animals, so always carry their phone numbers on the list provided.

Q. After native animals are rehabilitated by wildlife carers, how are they returned to the wild?

- A. If a kangaroo or wallaby they need to have a soft release which means they can still go back to their carer, if frightened or stressed. Native animals need a release site very near to where they were found. Now there are fewer and fewer places to release native animals because there are too many roads and too much development, and too many people.



Q. What is a threatening process to native animals and what are some of these threats on the Mornington Peninsula?

- A. Domestic dogs, cats and feral animals seriously attack and harm koalas chase kangaroos and joeys and other native animals. Kangaroo - proof fences, which not only fence out kangaroos but harm smaller species such as echidnas, dunnarts, antichinus etc, trapping them under the trip wires used in these fences, should be outlawed. Careless, speeding, inconsiderate drivers are a constant threat to native birds and animals, killing them on the roads.



Most frequently asked questions about road kill and what to do ~

Q. Which native animals are threatened, or have become extinct on the Peninsula?

A. Wombats, Southern Brown Bandicoots, Eastern Pygmy Possum, Feather-tail Glider, Water Rat, Dingo, New Holland Mouse, Eastern Quoll, Platypus to name just a few!



Q. How can Mornington Peninsula residents and visitors reduce, minimize harm to native animals. How can we all avoid the terrible loss of, and injuries to wildlife?

A. We can increase awareness of families like yours, of the existing loss and death of wildlife on roads and what we all can do to reduce the death rate.

1. SLOW DOWN
2. Responsibly restrain your pets
3. Do not allow feral animals on your land

Q. What techniques are available by road authorities to reduce road wildlife accidents?

A. There are underpasses, overpasses, overhead cabling, driver warning signage, exclusionary fencing to protect native animals, solar powered animal detection signage activated by animal movement, roads built to accommodate native animals.



Q. What equipment should I have in my car to help rescue wildlife?

A. Carry a few basic 'rescue' supplies. There are several wild animals the public can safely pick up and take to a veterinarian or a rescue/ rehab organisation (eg. birds, turtle, lizard, frog, possum).

1. Cardboard or plastic box with lid (poke holes in cardboard for ventilation especially if the weather is hot, you have a way to drive and the animal is furred/feathered).
2. Several old towels, old woollen jumper, and a blanket.
3. Thick gloves (particularly for possums, etc)
4. Bottle of water and container (to offer in case the animal is thirsty).
5. Scissors (for cutting birds and lizards out of netting and string, etc).
6. Wire cutters.
7. Phone numbers of local wildlife groups and/or vets.
8. Fishing net with long handle ideally with net removed and sheet replacing the net to catch birds and small animals.
9. Fluorescent vests in case you are attending animals at night.

- PLEASE SLOW DOWN
- BE AWARE
- BE PREPARED
- STAY CALM
- HELP OUR NATIVE ANIMALS

For further educational reading see:

www.bees.unsw.edu.au/school/researchstaff/ramp/rampdaniel.html



www.awpc.org.au

The Australian Wildlife Protection Council is a registered charity - No. Aoo1224D



Mornington Peninsula Shire 1300 850 600
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

Images: Jenny Bryant and Malcolm Legge

