

First Contact Care

If you come across injured wildlife it is your job to ensure the animal's best chance of survival by following a few simple rules.

If safe to do so—

- Provide warmth; injured or orphaned wildlife cannot regulate body temperature. A hot water bottle or soft drink bottle filled with the hottest water from a tap, not a kettle, ensure you wrap the bottle twice with a towel and place the bottle next to the animal, scrunching the rest of the towel over and around the animal. Do not heat or provide warmth to echidnas.
- Place the injured animal in a cardboard box with holes for ventilation, allow it time to recover, do not cuddle or cradle the animal. REMEMBER... wildlife see humans as predators.
- Cardboard boxes are best for birds so as to not damage important flight feathers.
- Any animal that has been caught by a cat may have puncture wounds which often cannot be found, it is vital these animals receive antibiotics within the first 24 hours from a veterinarian.
- Ensure you contact a wildlife carer or rescue group and the animal is taken into care immediately.
- Do not offer the animal /bird anything to eat or drink unless instructed to do so by a DSE licensed wildlife carer.
- If an animal is wounded it should go to a veterinarian immediately. After office hours it should be taken to a wildlife shelter ASAP.
- Never pull an orphaned animal off the teat of the dead mother. Ring our hotline for instructions.
- Injured bats should be rescued by immunised bat specialists only. Animalia has an inoculated bat team at the ready.

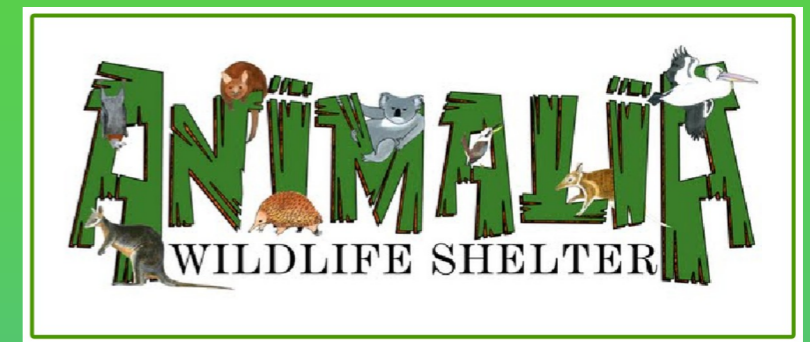


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Join us on Facebook

Animalia is a not for profit volunteer wildlife shelter which relies on public donations to continue our valuable work, please consider making a donation at any
WESTPAC bank branch BSB 033138 Account 434072 or via direct debit to account name—Animalia Wildlife Shelter



0435 822 699

For wildlife
rescue & rehabilitation



About Animalia

Animalia caters for the care and rehabilitation of Australian indigenous wildlife that are sick, injured, orphaned or displaced, ensuring all animals are returned to their native habitat.

Wildlife are rescued from the Frankston-Mornington Peninsula through to the Sandbelt Brighton-Cranbourne region.

Animalia wildlife shelter is Frankston's longest running wildlife shelter operated by Michelle and John Thomas. Michelle has over two decades of wildlife rehabilitation and her knowledge has often been utilised on a state wide basis, ranging from training & mentoring wildlife carers / rescuers and triage nurse to team leader and response manager for large scale disasters.

The need for wildlife carers is huge with more animals coming into care on a daily basis. This is due to habitat loss, predation by domestic animals, entanglement in fishing tackle & line, barbed wire fencing, fruit tree netting, collisions with cars and windows as well as electrocution on powerlines.

Volunteers

To volunteer at Animalia simply contact us to arrange a time for a short induction. Due to the complexity of wildlife and their needs you must be able to undertake a regular shift. If you would like to help but don't have the confidence with animals, there are still plenty of ways to do so. Computer skills, data entry, record keeping, maintenance, laundry, fundraising, shelter working bees, or helping with our newsletter, are all ways in which you can help to remove the pressure on our busy wildlife shelter.

Location

Animalia is situated close to the CBD of Frankston, just a short walk from Leawarra Station. Bus services also run close by every twenty minutes. Volunteers can take a weekly shift helping with food preparation and feeding, wildlife husbandry, enclosure maintenance and cleaning

Become a rescuer

To become a rescuer you need to undertake a minimum of eight hours training which comes in the form of a wildlife rescue workshop. You will then be teamed up with another more experienced rescuer to learn more and hone your skills.

Other ways to help Animalia

- Become a rescuer/transporter
- Become a foster carer
- Donate goods i.e. blankets, towels
- Donate fruit for flying foxes
- Sew or knit pouches
- Become a member
- Become an Animalia fundraiser
- Make a monetary donation

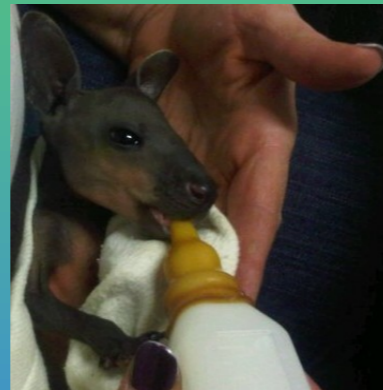
Birds

Fledgling birds such as this one are often rescued by well meaning people but **do not** need to come into care. Many of our native bird species come out of the nest between 2-4 weeks old and spend the first two weeks on the ground, during this time the parent birds are still feeding and protecting their young. If you are unsure, stand back and watch for parental activity and check from a distance to see if the wings are symmetrical-broken wings often droop or extend out at odd angles.



Bronze wing pigeon fledgling
One of the areas few native pigeons, note the white forehead.

Marsupials



Swamp wallaby joeys often come into care due to the continued habitat losses our wildlife is facing. This little one's mother was killed on the road, luckily a kind person stopped to check the sex of the wallaby finding a healthy viable joey inside.

Wildlife carers need to be highly trained to successfully raise these fragile creatures. Animalia Wildlife Shelter happily cares for pinkie swamp wallabies along with many other pinkie marsupials.

When driving if you see a animal that has been hit by a car please **always** stop and check the pouch. Carry a pair of scissors in your car in case you need to cut the teat. Never pull the joey off the teat as you may damage the delicate mouth. If unsure first call for assistance.

Keep the Joey **Warm, Dark and Quiet**

- Take the animal to a senior wildlife carer **within the first 24 hours.** Never attempt to feed it yourself
- **Do not** seek advice or knowledge from the internet as there is much misinformation on the web
- Remember wildlife carers are highly trained to look after our wildlife
- Our wildlife needs specialist care and assistance
- Wombat and Koala pouches face backwards
- Joeys of most species can be found in pouches all year round



An exhausted & orphaned Grey headed flying fox pup (fruit bat)

Australian Fur seals are frequently seen on our beaches during spring/summer. Unlike dolphins and whales, seals have fur which protects them from the sun, so they do not need to have water splashed or poured over them. Seals mostly fish at night, during daylight hours they sleep, preen and digest food. If a seal is cold it can tuck its flippers underneath the conserve warmth. They have a thick layer of body fat which insulates them against the cold temperatures of the deeper water. In Australia seals are protected species and it is an offence to approach or harass a seal, a fine of \$25,000 can be imposed if evidence exists of such behaviour. Wildlife carers and rescuers often monitor seals on busy beaches to ensure the seals safety. Animalia volunteers can usually give information on the habits of each seal.



Koala's

Are often hit on busy roads late at night, it is crucial if you find an injured or distressed Koala that you contact our hotline immediately to receive advice. Please ensure you place your hazard lights on so to ensure the safety of both you and the koala. If you have a blanket throw the blanket over the koala to keep it quiet. Koalas have very large sharp claws and should not be handled by inexperienced people. If you must attempt to pick up a koala to protect it from further harm please ensure you are behind the animal with a very thick blanket between you and the koala, by rolling something such as a jumper or blanket up and placing it between the arms and legs of the koala, this will encourage the koala to grab hold of it instead of you. A safe way to quickly move a koala from off the road is by the scruff of the neck with your other hand supporting the bottom.



Micro and Mega Bats

Are crucial to our environment and often come into care due to being trapped in various ways. Mega Bats or fruit bats often get trapped in fruit tree netting, barb wire fences or on electrical wires after electric shock. It is vital that you do not attempt to rescue the bat yourself but call our hotline for assistance, Animalia has a team of vaccinated wildlife rescuers available to undertake rescues of this highly intelligent species. Micro bats eat many pest insects including lawn grub moths, weevils, beetles, midges, flying termites and disease carrying mosquitoes. Without micro bats diseases such as Ross River Fever become more prevalent. Some micro bats also eat small frogs and fish. A recent survey found that microbat diets were made up of 100% grain weevils during varying times of year which makes them vital for crop protection. By helping and protecting microbats we ensure our long term food production and can become trapped inside houses that have been locked up for periods of time and will be dehydrated as a result,