

## **First Contact Care for wildlife**

**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 bath 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 DEPI 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. This may damage jaw muscles, Ring our hotline for instructions.**
- **Injured bats should be rescued by immunised bat specialists only. Animalia has an inoculated bat team at the ready.**

**Echidnas are excellent at digging do not attempt to transport an echidna in a cardboard box as they will dig through and into your car seat. Use only large storage containers with lids or garbage bins to transport**

**Joeys should have their heads covered and noise should be kept to a minimum, if transporting them to a shelter or vet ensure you turn your car radio off and do not smoke in your car.**

**Animalia Wildlife Shelter 0435822699**

**[www.animaliawildlife.org.au](http://www.animaliawildlife.org.au)**

**Animalia is a not for profit volunteer wildlife shelter which relies on public donations to continue our valuable work. If you found this information useful, please consider making a donation via any Westpac bank BSB033138 Account 434072  
Account name – Animalia wildlife shelter**

