

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

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

