



Photo credit: Karl Dawson

The female kangaroo took 3 days to capture

KANGAROOS CAUGHT

In June we received a very distressing call to help a female kangaroo with an arrow from a crossbow through her chest.

We immediately called on several highly experienced volunteer kangaroo rescuers in the area. Volunteers Mel, Karl and Manfred were on the scene within an hour, where they spotted a roo with an arrow in its body – but this one was a male with an arrow in his rump.

It took two teams of rescuers and three days to capture both roos. Sadly, vets decided the female's injuries were too great and she had to be euthanised but the male made a full recovery and has since been released back to his "mob".

While this wasn't the ideal ending we'd all hoped for, it was a great example of the tireless dedication and teamwork of our volunteers who didn't rest until the roos were no longer suffering. A huge thanks to all of the volunteers and vets involved in the rescue, treatment and rehabilitation.

The rescuers carefully collected the arrows which were handed over to the police for further investigation.

This is just two of 177 animal cruelty cases that we have been able to assist with this year thanks to your support.



Elastic bands can be deadly for platypus

ENTANGLED PLATYPUS

This winter we've received not one but three reports of platypus entangled in elastic bands and rubbish. In one case, the elastic hairbands were so tight they had cut right through to the bone around the poor animal's neck and leg.

Platypus have webbed feet that make great paddles, but also make it very

hard for them to free themselves from rubbish. It's so important to cut all hair ties, elastic bands, cable ties, fishing line and metal or plastic rings so they can't snare any animals and then dispose of them responsibly so that they don't ever reach our waterways.

If you see discarded rubbish on the ground – especially elastic bands – please take a second to pick it up. You might just save a platypus's life.



Echidnas often show up in the most unlikely places

ECHIDNA SNORKELLING

This month we received a call about an adventurous echidna found on a jetty in Port Fairy. When disturbed by a member of the public it did what echidnas usually do when they feel threatened – it dug in and held on for dear life so that no-one could move it. With the tide rising quickly, his would-be rescuers were getting desperate.

Echidnas may not look very buoyant, but they are actually excellent swimmers and use their beaks like a snorkel. We sent a trained rescuer out to help, while reassuring the member of public that if the tide came in too far the echidna could simply swim home!

In the last year your support has helped 823 echidnas!



WILDLIFE TIPS & ADVICE: *Microbats*

Did you know that when you go outside at night you could be surrounded by dozens or even hundreds of teeny tiny bats?

25% of all the world's mammals are bats and in Melbourne there are at least 16 different species of microbat, with sizes ranging from about 4g and the size of your smallest fingernail to the size of a mouse. One microbat can eat up to 600 mosquitos an hour so they play a very important role in insect control.

Microbat numbers are declining, partly due to a lack of suitable roosting habitat.

How do you know they're there?

Microbats are nocturnal so it's rare to see one during the daytime unless you accidentally disturb some tree bark or stumble upon a sleeping colony.

They navigate by echolocation so they're constantly emitting high pitched noises while on the wing, but only one uses a frequency that can be heard by human ears. The White-striped free-tail bat makes a sound a bit like two coins being clinked together.

Look up at dusk: you may see microbats as they start to hunt for insects. Their flight is fast with sudden changes of direction. Microbats are attracted to the insects around street lights, house lights and car headlights but they are often mistaken for moths.

How you can help

Bats in urban areas need places to live. You can help to support more natural roosting places by planting more trees, and leaving bark and hollow logs and dead branches intact. You can also install microbat nesting boxes around your property.

Many homes have a small colony of microbats living undetected in the roof space or wall cavities. They are quite clean and don't build nests or gnaw holes so most people are happy for them to stay.

If you need to evict microbats from your roof, watch carefully at dusk to see where they're getting in and out, install lots of nest boxes in the surrounding areas, then install one-way flaps to allow the bats to get out but not back in. Please don't ever do this between September and January as this is when mothers leave their dependent young behind at home while they go out to forage.

A microbat may accidentally find its way inside your house. It's important that you don't try to catch it as you could damage its delicate wings or risk being exposed to a rare disease if you handle it. Most of the time if you open up your doors and windows and turn off the lights the bat will find its own way out. If it doesn't, please call us and we will arrange for a trained and vaccinated rescuer to come and assist you.

More ways you can help microbats:

- Never use sticky traps for insects: microbats are so small they often get caught in these traps too. One bat will kill far more insects in a single day than a trap ever will.
- Always keep cats inside at night.
- Drive slowly at night when you see insects in your headlights to avoid hitting bats that are attracted to them.
- Put covers on pools and sticks in outdoor water containers at night to help bats climb out if they fall in. Bats can swim but they will drown if they can't get out of the water.
- Tie or bag your umbrellas when not in use to prevent bats from getting in. Microbats often take up residence under closed pool umbrellas.
- Do not disturb microbats during cold weather - they are in torpor (a kind of hibernation).

Please don't ever touch or pick up a microbat. A small proportion of bats carry a disease that can be fatal to humans.

If you see an injured bat, please call 03 8400 7300 for help and we will send a vaccinated bat rescuer to assist.

BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Bushfire Emergency Appeal to assist wildlife shelters affected by the Victorian bushfires earlier this year.

Together we raised just over \$12,000 to be distributed to wildlife shelters affected by the fires, including one that lost most of its animal enclosures in the blaze and several others that needed help to purchase food for all of the extra animals in their care.



A very young Echidna puggle

i WILDLIFE FACTS: Puggle Time!

Baby echidnas - known as puggles - hatch from an egg. Mother echidnas produce milk to feed their puggles but not from nipples: they have a 'milk patch' on their stomach that the baby will lap from.

Echidnas don't have a permanent pouch like marsupials but carry their egg or very young puggle around by holding the muscles of their abdomen tight to form a kind of temporary pouch.

Once the puggle's spikes start developing, Mum will bury it carefully in a den and wander off for several days at a time. You should always avoid moving an echidna in case it gets disoriented and can't find its way back home.

July to October is when echidnas are most likely be carrying babies in their pouch so it's very important to stop and check during this time.



Your support helped wildlife shelters to rebuild after the bushfires



WE DID IT!

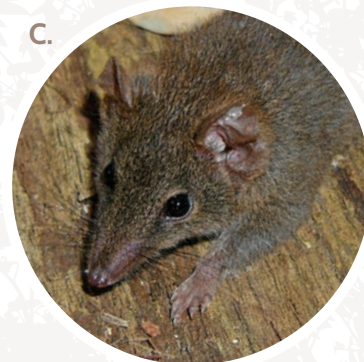
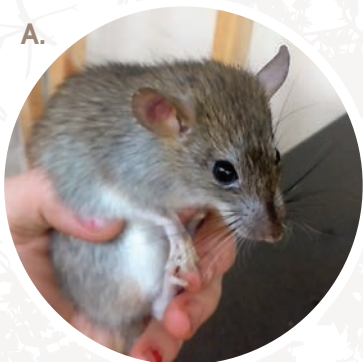
We are very excited to share the news that the Victorian Government has allocated money in their 2019/20 budget to support Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service! After many years of campaigning, it is wonderful to see the welfare of our precious wildlife and the importance of our service finally being recognised.

This grant will be used to increase the capacity of our Wildlife Emergency Response Service to respond to the ever-growing demand. A big thanks to Andy Meddick MP and his team from the Animal Justice Party who helped to make this grant a reality.



Andy Meddick MP, The hon. Lily D'Ambrosio and Wildlife Victoria CEO Megan Davidson with Bok Choy the wombat

CAN YOU SPOT THE NON-NATIVE SPECIES?



Tip: Natives have much shorter tails

Answer: A is an introduced rat. The Bush Rat (B) is a native Australian rodent and the Agile Antechinus (C) is a marsupial that is more closely related to the Shrew or Quoll. All three are commonly found in Victoria.

SNAP SEND SOLVE

You can now report sick, injured and orphaned wildlife to our Wildlife Emergency Response Service in less than 30 seconds using the Snap Send Solve app for iOS and Android.

Snap Send Solve utilises your smart-phone's camera to snap a photo of the situation, and GPS to precisely pinpoint your location. Then all you have to do is

add any notes and hit send and your report will go into the same queue as phone and web based wildlife reports.

Snap Send Solve can also be used to report issues to local councils, utilities, supermarkets and universities.

Visit www.snapsendsolve.com for more information, or download the free app from the App store or Google Play.



ORPHAN SEASON IS COMING

With Spring only a few weeks away, now is a great time to download your FREE copy of our step-by-step pouch checking guide and start putting together a wildlife rescue kit for your car.

A large proportion of female marsupials killed by cars are carrying a joey that has a good chance of surviving the accident if only we can get to them in time.



Pouch checking saves lives

www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/wildlife-information

THANKS SUPER KNITTERS

Thank you to all of the knitters who have been hand-knitting woollen pouches for orphaned wildlife in preparation for Spring. These pouches are used by wildlife rescuers, carers and vets to keep tiny joeys safe and warm.

Last Spring we assisted 3,639 orphaned native animals – a whopping 48% increase from 2017 – and we can never have too many pouches.

If you'd like to help out, you can find instructions on our website or give us a call on (03) 9445 0310 to arrange for them to be posted to you.



Brush-tail possum joeys in knitted pouches



FIGURES & FACTS FOR 2019



87,664
Wildlife Emergency Reports in the last 12 months!

48,225
Number of individual animals assisted



Yes, I want to help sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife!

I will give:

\$25 \$50 \$100 My gift of \$ _____

I would like to make this a regular monthly donation

Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

ABN 27 753 478 012

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I will give by:

Cheque or Credit card: Visa Mastercard Amex

Card number

Expiry date

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Signature

Please post this form to:

Wildlife Victoria, Reply Paid 86041, Abbotsford VIC 3067

or call (03) 9445 0310 to make a donation. *Thank you for your support.*

Donate online at www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/donations