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# RESPONDING TO INJURED WILDLIFE

17/09 workshop notes and resources

Presented by WIRES

## TO RECAP

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- **Your safety and that of others comes first.** Do not attempt to move animal or approach an injured animal if you can not do so carefully
- If you are in the Hawkesbury, Penrith or Blacktown call WIRES, if you are in the Hills please call Sydney Wildlife Rescue.
  - **WIRES:** 13 000 WIRES or 1300 094 737 or [Report a Rescue Form](#)
  - **Sydney Wildlife** Rescue line: (02) 9413 4300
- August to January is where we see wildlife moving a lot so please keep an eye out
- Animals are rescued for: injuries, encounters with domestic animals (especially cats even injuries aren't apparent), heat stress, disease, extreme weather, entanglement, orphaned young, in imminent danger (eg near a road edge)
- There are some animals **you should not attempt to handle** or move when alive: raptors, large macropods, reptiles (snakes, lizards monitors) and bats. Call help immediately.
- **Location**, is essential: have GPS points, landmarks or something for a carer to find an animals
- Key safety tips for helping a rescue or moving an animals if it's safe to are below.
- Diseases to keep an eye out for: Beak and Feather in parrots, Chlamydia in koalas and mange in wombats (signs below)
- There are loads of ways to help wildlife other than rescues, check them out below!
- Get involved by becoming a WIRES member or carer (details below)
- Don't forget to log sightings of animals injured or killed my vehicles in the Roadkill Reporter App (here)
- Remember: **It is illegal to take native animals from the wildlife** and it's important to ensure any rescued animals are looked after by trained carers.

## BECOME A WIRES or SYDNEY WILDLIFE MEMBER

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- To become a member carer you need to do some different training. Generalised courses and Courses on specific species and types of wildlife are available, see [WIRES](#) for more.
- You can become a member of Sydney Wildlife too: <http://www.sydneywildlife.org.au/whats-involved.html>

## OTHER WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP IN THE HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN:

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- Restore habitat on your property
- Raise awareness! A conversation about the webinar or something so that others know
- Keeping Wildlife in the Wild is important and release an animals back to the place it was found (or nearby if not possible)
- Don't feed wildlife on your property– plant native species instead or habitat like nest boxes that will encourage them

- Drive safely and carefully, especially at dawn and dusk
- Avoid everyday products that are harmful – pesticides and plastic
- If you are an angler, please always collect your fishing line.
- Fruit trees nets: look at the net size, guide below
- If you see an animal dead or on the side of the road look out because animals may be drawn out to it.



**Entanglement**

- Birds, bats, lizards, snakes and the occasional possum are the main victims of inappropriate netting
- Wildlife friendly netting should have a mesh size of less than 5mm, you should not be able to poke your finger through
- WIRES recommends a densely woven net that is wildlife safe such as **Fruit Saver, Hail Guard or Vege Net**

Great-headed Kingfisher caught in netting

Fruitsaver      Hail Guard      Vege net

## RESPONDING TO WILDLIFE IN DIFFERENT SCENARIOS:

- **Never attempt to assist an animal on your own if it's alive (unless trained to)**
- If moving animals **never use bare hands**: use an old sheet, towel, cardboard box, gloves, anything!
- When moving wildlife off a road please take care and precaution. Check the pouch when an animal is off the road.
- Check nearby area for orphaned or nearby young. For example, kangaroos have a young in their pouch and a young nearby that still relies on the
- Do not remove live young attached to a teat.
- If you can pick up an animal put them in dark and quiet place and take it to a vet immediately
- Do not use yourself as a source of warmth for an animal
- Since the fires disease has increased – low immune systems, not able to respond
- Different methods to rescue different species, call WIRES to respond to this. Remember do not approach and/or handle: raptors, large macropods, reptiles (snakes, lizards monitors) and bats

## Read more about encounters:

### Encounters with domestic pets:

- Dog encounter is usually obvious, cats are not so obvious but take it to a vet anyway. Even if an animal looks okay after an encounter with a domestic animal you should take it to a vet because internal injuries are not always obvious until later on. Furthermore, cats have bacteria in their saliva and even a small puncture wound that isn't visible to the naked eye can be fatal over time.

### Heat stress:

- Call WIRES, animals can respond unexpectedly. Keep pets and children inside. Birds and possums can be picked up in a towel and placed in a box in a dark place then call WIRES to take to local vet.

### Extreme weather:

- Call WIRES, be careful
- Entanglement, fires, floods, extreme weather

### Entanglement

- Almost 3 entangled animals are reported to WIRES **everyday**
- Fishing lines wrapped around legs, hooks in organs and feet

### Orphaned Young

- Wait to see if the parent is around
- If parents are attending to it then nothing is wrong
- If not, then contact WIRES
- Resist the urge to just pick up an animal

### Disease

- **Beak and Feather:** Incomplete feather growing, lost feathers in areas that the birds can't reach with their own beaks, looking dull without gloss, wings or tails don't look fully developed and puffed, ruffled or flat feathers
- **Mange:** Caused by a mite that burrows into the skin. Symptoms: hair loss, crusty skin, puffed eyes, out during the day or seeming disorientated. Further risk of secondary infection. Treatment: WIRES carer
- **Chlamydia:** Affects eyes, urinary tract and reproduction. Symptoms: conjunctivitis, pink swollen eyes or rings, wet bottom looking brown and dark. Threat of pneumonia and increased risks to other threats.



Eastern Rosella with Beak and Feather

**Psittacine circoviral disease**



Wombat suffering with a severe case of mange

**Mange**



Koala affected by ocular chlamydia

**Chlamydial Infections**



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## Stay up to date

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Don't forget you can become a member of HNLN – it's free, all you have to do is attend two events/meeting per year. REGISTER [here](#). For those who missed it, here is a link to our most [recent newsletter](#). You can also find HNLN on Facebook, Instagram and Landcarer.

Thank you again to all for attending and we look forward to seeing you all again soon! As always if you have any questions, queries or ideas please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

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