

What you can do to help wildlife during a drought or after a bushfire?

#1 Providing water

During prolonged drought and following bushfires, many animals and birds may be weak and vulnerable as they are deprived of their usual water, food and shelter sources.

If you choose to provide water for wildlife:

- Offer water in areas of shade and don't use metal containers (they get too hot)
- Regularly clean and refill water stations
- Phase out the water stations as conditions improve, and ultimately remove all the materials from the landscape (unless it's in your own backyard of course)
- Allow animals to lap water, never pour water into their mouths it can enter their lungs and ultimately kill them

The Guy Ballard V.2: Two 20L Water containers within a tray

A simple but effective design of 2 x 20L water containers strapped into a plastic tray (designed by Guy Ballard). Put some stones and sticks in the reservoir so any animal that falls in can climb out.

Pros: stable, provides 40L of water, easy to install and refill

Cons: heavy when full (40kg). Note that using a single 20L container is not stable enough, but you could also use 2 x 10L containers.



Photo: Bronwyn Fancourt

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Poly pipe column

These will only work if the cap on the pipe is completely air-tight, otherwise the water will just pour out the bottom as soon as you put it upright.



Video here on how to make it:

<https://www.facebook.com/sarah.dasilva05/videos/2632624366820602/>

Pros: Cheap to make (\$15 - \$30), durable, water lasts for up to 2 weeks, tested in the field

Cons: Needs to be secured to an upright structure or tree. It is awkward to refill as you have to invert the pipe and use a hose to refill the column. Generates waste or needs storage space when not in use.



Photo: Andrew Adcroft

Open containers

Containers filled with water should have stones and sticks in them to provide climb out points for small creatures that may fall in. Avoid metal as it heats up too quickly.

Pros: Cheap as chips. Pick up big ceramic bowls or plastic containers from the op shop, place bowls in hanging baskets for birds. Place high and low for birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Recycles existing materials. Good for backyards and small properties.

Cons: Need daily servicing, may tip over easily



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Dug in containers

Larger reservoirs can be created by sinking plastic children's sand pits (about \$25) or other large container into the ground. Place rocks and sticks in the water so animals as a ledge to drink from and can climb out if they fall in.

Pros: Cheap

Cons: Requires considerable effort to install and maintain. Animals may drown if not carefully designed. Generates a large amount of plastic waste.

Is your swimming pool safe?

Thirsty animals can drown in swimming pools. Provide plenty of climb out points from an open pool using shade cloth, ropes or other materials, and place bricks and stones on pool steps. A bodyboard or other floating platform attached to the pool edge can provide a ledge for animals.



We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our emergency response service for advice on **(03) 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: **www.wildlifevictoria.org.au**