



Responsible Pet Ownership

One of Wildlife Victoria's highest number of calls is about wildlife which has been attacked by domestic dogs and cats. While people generally understand the concept of responsible dog ownership, the same cannot be said for our little moggies.

Even if you think your pet is just playing with the wild animal, the animal won't see it that way and may be fearing for its life, get injured, or die from stress.



Wildlife with injuries from dog or cat attacks

Pets are valued and important members of our families but if we do not act responsibly, they can have a massive negative impact on our native wildlife. Cats, especially, have bacteria that can be fatal to some of our smaller species. Unfortunately these attacks happen and when they do, the most important thing is to get help for the animal as soon as possible, so please call our emergency number 03 8400 7300.

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.



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Native wildlife are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975. We should be happy they have chosen our yard to live in or just hang out in for a while. If your backyard is part of the native animal's territory, please do your best to teach your pets to be tolerant of wildlife or remove your pets from the area until the wildlife moves on.

Wildlife are unlikely to take up residence in your yard if you do have a cat or dog so if you discover a new native animal they are likely just passing through.

There are many easy ways you can be a responsible pet owner:

- Keep your cats indoors or in enclosures, and your dogs within a well-fenced yard.
- Walk your dogs on a lead, rather than off lead, and be very aware of wildlife in off-leash areas.
- Installing a certified cat run or cat enclosure is a great responsible alternative to allowing them to roam. Cat enclosures allow your pet to experience the outdoors while not having a negative impact on other species. It has the advantage of keeping your pet safe too.
- Statistics show that indoor cats live longer.
- Try a bell on your cat's or dog's collar to give the native animal some warning.
- Desex your pets, preventing unwanted litters, lessening the abundance of stray animals.
- Microchip and register your pets with your local council and keep your details up to date.
- Provide enrichment and exercise your pets, helping them to exert energy in a positive way.



Keep your dog on a lead when out walking



A cat run keeps your cats and wildlife safe from each other

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