

A SAFE DRIVE SAVES OUR WILDLIFE

Photo: Douglas Gimesy



Every year thousands of native animals are killed on Victorian roads. However, with more holiday makers expected to be travelling by regional roads over the summer holidays, we're unfortunately expecting more road accidents involving wildlife.

Wildlife on roads is a huge safety concern for drivers and passengers. Hitting a large animal such as a kangaroo or wombat whilst travelling at speed can result in injuries to passengers and major damage to the vehicle.

In most cases the animal doesn't survive or is severely injured and must be euthanised.

Kangaroos and wallabies are most at risk on our roads. But also look out for wombats, birds, possums, lizards and echidnas while driving.

Macropods (like kangaroos and wallabies) are crepuscular, meaning that they are most active between dusk and dawn. The grass on the sides of our roads tends to be fresher from water run-off, making these areas favourable feeding areas for native animals.

Watch out for our road safety campaign

This summer, thanks to TAC's support, we are reminding drivers to take care on our roads: **A safe drive saves our wildlife.**

More details are available on our website at www.wildlifevictoria.org.au



KEEP THIS DOCUMENT
IN YOUR GLOVEBOX
AS AN EASY REFERENCE
POINT IN THE EVENT OF
A WILDLIFE COLLISION.

For more information
on Wildlife Victoria's
road safety campaign,
visit our website at
www.wildlifevictoria.org.au



SLOW DOWN TO
INCREASE YOUR
REACTION TIME

Safety tips for smart drivers

Here are some simple tips to help you stay safe while you are out and about, driving through the home of our wildlife.

- Be aware of road stretches where you are likely to encounter wildlife, especially between dusk and dawn
- Studies from the Centre for Automotive Safety Research conducted by the University of Adelaide have shown that a reduction in speed of just 10 percent has the potential to reduce vehicle crashes by 20 percent.
- Be alert while driving - look out for wildlife feeding near the roadside and for wildlife crossing signs.
- Remember to drive to suit the conditions and at a speed that allows you to avoid a potential collision with an animal.
- Take it extra slow when road visibility is poor.

What to do if you have a collision

1. If you do have a wildlife collision, pull over to a safe spot, put on your hazard lights and check to make sure everyone in your vehicle is safe.
2. Take note of the street address or nearby landmarks to enable emergency support workers to find the location.
3. If anyone is injured call an ambulance on '000'.
4. Telephone Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service on (03) 8400 7300 to get help for the animal. Even if the animal appears to be unharmed and has hopped or moved away, it will be injured. Our rescuers will check the animal's condition, and if deceased, check for pouch young and signs of joeys.
5. If the animal is deceased and on the road, please take time to move it to the side of the road (if safe to do so). By doing this, you are removing the hazard for other drivers and ensuring that other animals won't be injured while feeding on the carcass.

If the deceased animal is a marsupial call Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service on (03) 8400 7300, and we will talk you through how to check a female's pouch for a joey.