

## Caring for native animals after bushfires

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Orange

### Care of injured wildlife

Catching and caring properly for native animals and birds should be left to experts. However, there may be a need for more immediate first aid treatment of injured animals as a first course of action.

People finding an injured native animal should either call a wildlife rescue group or take the animal to the nearest veterinary surgery. Most veterinarians will treat injured native animals free of charge. Wildlife rescue groups such as WIRES and AWARE can provide excellent information and care for most injured native animals.

Be aware that there may be an increase in the number of native animals around your property that may have been forced there by fire in surrounding areas. These animals may be stressed and some may be dangerous, such as snakes.

### What you can do to help

There are a number of very positive things that can be done for injured, disorientated or starving animals and birds. There are also a few things that should not be done. To protect the surviving wildlife keep domestic dogs and cats inside or restrained for a few weeks after a bushfire. After the emergency has passed consider planting trees that attract birds, possums and koalas. Bird nesting boxes are easy to build and can be attached to trees replacing logs and hollows destroyed in the fires. Do not leave food out for animals in natural bushland or burnt-out areas. You might be inadvertently discouraging those animals from migrating to safe, unburnt areas. If animals are stranded in a small area try not to catch them or corner them as they will feel threatened and may be frightened back towards the fire.

### Further information

- **WIRES**  
Sydney: Phone (02) 8977 3333  
NSW country: Phone 1800 641 188  
[www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)
- **Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinics  
Taronga and Western Plain Zoos**  
Taronga Zoo hotline  
(Sydney): Ph (02) 9969 2777  
Western Plains Zoo hotline  
(Dubbo): Ph (02) 6882 5888  
[www.zoo.nsw.gov.au/content/view.asp?id=123](http://www.zoo.nsw.gov.au/content/view.asp?id=123)
- **Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services:**  
Ph (02) 9413 4300  
[www.sydneywildlife.org.au](http://www.sydneywildlife.org.au)
- **NSW Department of Primary Industries**  
(Director, Animal Welfare):  
Phone (02) 6391 3324  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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