



## Where to find more information?

- **Your local Vet**
- **WIRES** (Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service) [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au) or **1300 094 737**
- In NSW, **download the IFAW Wildlife Rescue app** to find wildlife rescue groups in your area
- If you'd like to **become a trained wildlife carer**, check out the training courses offered in your area (NSW) [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)



## Important contact details

### Veterinary contact details

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Phone number: .....

**World Animal Protection**  
[worldanimalprotection.org.au](http://worldanimalprotection.org.au)  
 1300 139 772  
[info@worldanimalprotection.org.au](mailto:info@worldanimalprotection.org.au)



### Notes

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**Source:** Adapted from NSW Department of Primary Industries  
 "EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Helping wildlife after floods and fires"

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# Protect Australian wildlife guide





Australia has always been a land of droughts, floods and fires but these natural disasters are becoming longer and more severe.

The devastating Australian bushfire season of 2019/2020 demonstrated the sheer extent of disasters on our land and our wildlife.

Tragically, more than 15,000 fires burned through 19 million hectares and 3 billion animals were killed, injured or displaced.

**This guide covers a few simple steps you can take if you come across injured wildlife after a disaster, like a bushfire, so they have the best chance of survival.**



## Be safe

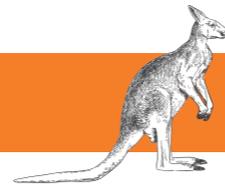
Your personal safety is important. Bushfire areas are dangerous places. **Please DO NOT go into active disaster zones** and, at all times, **follow any directions given** by emergency services personnel.

Keep in mind, wild animals are WILD and may be distressed or injured. Some may attack, some may carry disease and others may be venomous – so take care.

### DO NOT approach:

- X snakes
- X monitor lizards (goannas)
- X bats (flying-foxes or microbats)
- X large macropods (kangaroos or wallabies) or
- X raptors (eagles, falcons or hawks).

**These animals require specialist handling and MUST be rescued by trained wildlife professionals.**

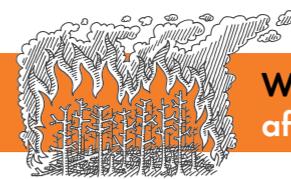


## What can I do if I find injured wildlife?

It is important to know that, despite your best intentions, **handling or disturbing sick, injured or distressed wildlife may cause them further harm.**

- X **DO NOT approach** the animal. Monitor it from a safe distance.
- ✓ **DO remove any threats** such as children, pets and vehicle traffic.
- ✓ **DO take note** of the location and the injury.
- ✓ **DO contact** a local wildlife vet or wildlife rescue group to report the problem and seek advice.
- ✓ **DO**, if so instructed, **contain small wildlife** that are safe to handle in a pillow case or wrap them in a towel and place in a secured box for transportation to a vet or wildlife carer.
- X **DO NOT provide food or water** unless you are instructed to do so.

**It is against the law to keep native animals taken from the wild. They must be given to a vet or authorised carer operating within a licensed wildlife rescue organisation.**



## What to do after a bushfire emergency?

- ✓ **DO slow down** when driving through areas affected by bushfires as wildlife may move closer toward roads or built-up areas in search of food and/or shelter.
- ✓ **DO keep an eye out** for sick or injured wildlife. If an animal has died, check for orphaned offspring.
- X **DO NOT put out food** as this can attract predators and put wildlife at greater risk.
- ✓ **DO be mindful** when cleaning up after a natural disaster. Dead logs and rocks provide homes and food sources for wildlife.
- ✓ **DO consider planting trees** or installing bird nesting boxes when vegetation has been destroyed.

