

Is your pet wildlife friendly?

Take the pet ownership pledge to keep our wildlife safe.



Can you say your pet is wildlife friendly? Many pet behaviours can harm or stress native wildlife, and Landcare is promoting ways that pet owners can keep our wildlife safe.

My pet's name is: _____

My pet is a: Cat, Dog, Other (write): _____

I pledge to:

Wildlife friendly cats:

- Build a suitable cat enclosure with access to indoor and outdoor areas.
- Include a bed, scratch post, toys, and an elevated perch.
- If no enclosure is available keep my cat indoors.
- Keep them inside when wildlife is most active from late afternoon, overnight, and until mid-morning.

Wildlife friendly dogs:

- Walk my dog on a leash when walking in the bush.
- Train my dog to follow instructions when off the leash.
- Do not allow my dog to chase wildlife.
- Avoid areas with nesting wildlife.
- Know the areas where I can and cannot take my dog.
- Keep my dog safe and secure at night.

Wildlife friendly pet owners:

- Register my pet with my local Council.
- Identify my pet with a collar, tag and microchip.
- Get the vet to de-sex my pet.
- Feed my pet appropriately.
- Control my pets' behaviour in wildlife areas.
- Never release unwanted pets into the environment.

Signed by: _____ . Date: _____

Keeping your pet close by in a loving domestic environment is the best way to care for your pet and protect our wildlife.

This Project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.



Is your pet wildlife friendly?

Can you say your pet is wildlife friendly? Many pet behaviours can harm or stress native wildlife as a result of poor care or supervision. Landcare is promoting ways that pet owners can keep our wildlife safe in a brochure to be distributed through local Councils, vets, and schools.

In the 2018-2019 year wildlife rescue organisation FAWNA reported 266 incidents of wildlife suffering from pet attacks involving cats and dogs. Animals affected included a wide range of birds, microbats, small mammals, flying-foxes, kangaroos, wallabies, possums, gliders, snakes and lizards.

Stress factors on wildlife can include death by hunting, injuries and infections from bites or scratches, disturbance to nests and young, territorial stress from chasing or scent marking, and competition for resources from stray pets.

Pets that stray also suffer. They will be hungry, scared, and will fight with other strays leading to increased stress and injuries. Keeping your pet close by in a loving domestic environment is the best way to care for your pet and protect our wildlife.

There are plenty of ways to be a wildlife friendly pet owner. Build a cat enclosure, keep your dog confined and secure at night, walk your dog on a leash, and avoid areas with nesting wildlife. Always register, microchip, and de-sex your pet, and never release unwanted pets into the bush. Contact your local Council to report and re-home any unwanted strays or pets.

Macksville based vet Dr Kristie Neale wholeheartedly supports this Landcare initiative. "It's so important that as pet owners we do everything we can to prevent harm to our wildlife. We have a fabulous community of pet owners, and a wide and varied population of wildlife, frequently living alongside each other" says Dr Kristie Neale. "We can all work together to achieve harmonious enjoyment of both our beloved pets and our amazing native wildlife." Dr Kristie Neale works closely with the Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) providing free veterinary care for injured wildlife.

When responding to injured wildlife contact FAWNA (ph: 6581 4141) or WIRES (ph: 1300 094 737). Ensure the injured animal is kept calm in a quiet, dark, warm place until aid is available. Always check the pouches of marsupials for any live joey.

The project is a collaboration between the Macleay Landcare Network and Nambucca Valley Landcare, with the support of local wildlife rescue organisations FAWNA and WIRES, Kempsey Shire Council, and Nambucca Shire Council, made possible with funding from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust.

Can you answer these five questions?

1. Many pet behaviours that harm or stress native wildlife are a result of poor _____ or _____ .

2. How many incidents of pet attacks were reported to FAWNA in 2018-2019 the year? _____

3. Pets that stray also suffer from _____ , _____ and _____ .

4. Pet owners should always _____ , _____ and _____ their pet.

5. To report injured wildlife I should contact:

_____ on ph: _____ , or _____ on ph: _____ .