

People living in rural areas share their properties and favourite places with a variety of native wildlife.

Inappropriate pet behaviours can harm or stress native wildlife, that can lead to the death or the local extinction of native species.

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.

Contact your local Council to report and re-home any unwanted strays or pets.

## Responding to injured wildlife

Immediately report injured wildlife to

- FAWNA (Phone: 6581 4141)
- WIRES (Phone: 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.

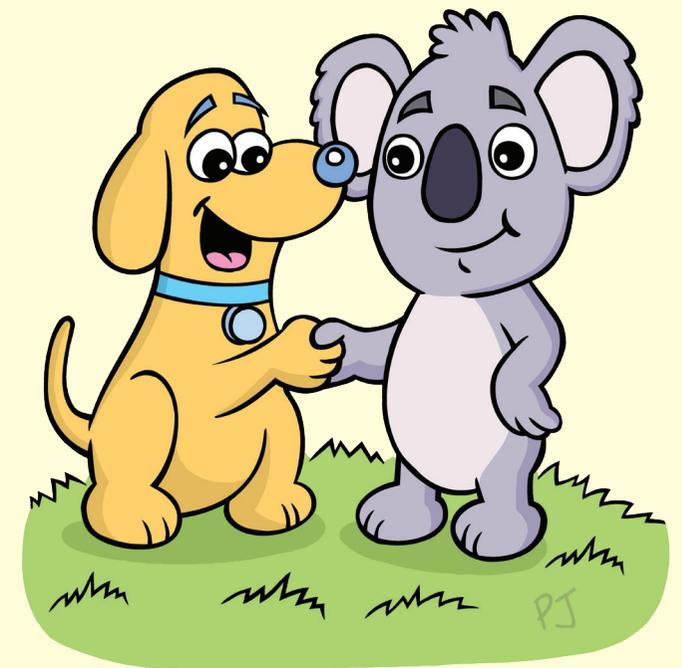
For more information about responding to injured wildlife or to become a wildlife carer visit these websites:

- FAWNA: <https://www.fawna.org.au>
- WIRES: [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)



## Is Your Pet Wildlife Friendly?

Tips on pet ownership to keep our wildlife safe.



This Project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.  
Illustrations by Phil Judd (Comic Express). Text by Andy Vinter (Macleay Landcare Network).

## Wildlife friendly cats:

- ✓ Construct 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 confine your cat indoors.
- ✓ Keep them inside when wildlife is most active from late afternoon, overnight, and until mid-morning.



## Wildlife friendly dogs:

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

## Wildlife friendly pet owners:

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

*"Its so important that as pet owners we do everything we can to prevent harm to our wildlife."*

*Dr Kristie Neale (Midcoast Vets)*