



# Kangaroos

## How you can help

- If you do have an accident with a kangaroo please pull over safely. When you have checked everyone in the car is safe, put your hazard lights on, and give us a call. Even if the kangaroo appears okay and jumps away it will probably be injured and need assistance.
- If you come across a kangaroo on the side of the road that has been hit by a car or is clearly in distress, please call us.
- If you find a kangaroo on a busy road and it is causing a traffic hazard, please call 000 to alert them of the hazard. Then please call us.
- Please do not attempt to contain or chase a kangaroo. These animals may look tough but sadly they suffer from an acute stress condition called "capture myopathy" where the kangaroo's muscles slowly die.
- Check your location! Take a screenshot on your phone of where you are located and send this through to our emergency response team. Alternatively take note of GPS co-ordinates, or nearby crossroads.
- If there isn't a distinctive landmark nearby, you can create one by tying something bright to a tree or post. This information is vital in helping a volunteer to quickly and easily locate the animal.
- At any point in time, many adult females will be carrying a joey, which means that if you come across an injured or deceased female, there is a high chance a joey is present.
- After rescuers check the pouch of a dead kangaroo, they will spray paint the body with a large cross to notify other rescuers that the pouch has been checked. If you come across a deceased kangaroo that is not marked please call to report the animal's location.
- After calling us, if you are keen to check the pouch for a joey, we can talk you through it by phone. Alternatively, see our separate Pouch Check Fact Sheet.



We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our emergency response service for advice on **03 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: [www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](http://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au).



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## Tips for driving in highly populated kangaroo areas

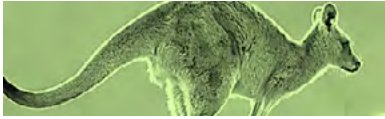
- Slow down at dawn and dusk as this is the time of the day when kangaroos are most active and feeding.
- When road visibility is poor, slow down to increase your reaction time.
- Be alert while driving - look for wildlife feeding near the roadside and look out for wildlife crossing signs.
- Remember to drive to suit the conditions and at a speed that you feel safe and can avoid a potential collision.
- If you see one kangaroo cross the road ahead, it could mean that the rest of the mob are about to follow, so slow down and be alert!
- Studies from the Centre for Automotive Safety Research at 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.
- For more tips see our separate fact sheet on "Driving & Wildlife".

## Kangaroos and Wildlife Victoria

- The Eastern Grey is the predominant kangaroo in Victoria. Sadly, they rate as our number one species for calls. This is often after a kangaroo has unfortunately collided with a vehicle and requires assistance.
- As urbanisation around Melbourne increases, kangaroos are forced into smaller pockets of land to graze, which creates denser populations of individuals.
- Displacement of kangaroos occurs every day around Melbourne where they have been found in many different circumstances including one that was recently rescued in a multi-level car park, and some from inside shops.
- More kangaroos are forced to cross roads during dawn and dusk periods to reach the best grazing land.



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## Is it a kangaroo or a wallaby?

- The most common wallaby found in Victoria is the Swamp Wallaby. They grow to around 3/4 of the size of an Eastern Grey Kangaroo and are a much darker, chocolate brown colour.
- They prefer to scoot under fences, whereas kangaroos will hop over them.
- Don't be alarmed if you see a wallaby resting with its tail between its legs; that's just how they like to hang out!
- Wallabies are fairly solitary animals, although you might find them hanging out with a kangaroo mob.



Swamp Wallaby



Eastern Grey Kangaroo

## Interesting facts

- When born, joeys can be as small as a grain of rice!
- A joey is only in the womb for around a month before it is born when it makes its way into its mother's pouch for another few months.
- Kangaroos have a muscle in their tail that they use like a fifth limb to balance and push themselves off the ground.
- A mother can look after two joeys in different developmental stages at the same time and feed them different types of milk.
- Eastern Grey Kangaroos are communal animals that are normally found in groups called mobs.



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