



Driving and Wildlife

Every year thousands of native animals are killed on Victorian roads. Wildlife on roads is also a huge safety concern for drivers and passengers.

Kangaroos and wallabies are most at risk on our roads. But also look out for wombats, birds, possums, lizards and echidnas while driving.

Macropods (like kangaroos and wallabies) are crepuscular, meaning that they are most active at dawn and dusk. The grass on the sides of our roads tends to be fresher from water run-off, making these areas favourable feeding areas.



How to keep yourself and our native wildlife safe when driving

- Drivers should be aware of road stretches where they are likely to encounter wildlife, especially during dusk and dawn, and slow down to avoid a collision.
- Studies from the Centre for Automotive Safety Research conducted by 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.
- When road visibility is poor, slow down to increase your reaction time.
- Be alert while driving - look out for wildlife feeding near the roadside and for wildlife crossing signs.
- Remember to drive to suit the conditions and at a speed that allows you to avoid a potential collision with an animal.

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.wildlifevictoria.org.au.



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What to do if you encounter injured or deceased wildlife

- If you find a deceased animal on the road please take the time to move it a few metres to the side of the road (if safe to do so) so that other animals (eg, birds of prey) aren't injured while feeding on the carcass. If the deceased animal is a marsupial, do a pouch check for joeys (see our Pouch Check fact sheet), and call us to help.
- If you encounter injured wildlife, maintain a safe distance and park your car safely with hazard lights on. Call us on 03 8400 7300. Take note of the street address or nearby landmarks to guide rescuers to the animal quickly.
- If you do accidentally hit an animal while driving and you are uninjured please call our emergency service. Even if the animal appears okay and has hopped or moved away, it will be injured. Our rescuers will check the animal's condition, and if deceased, check for pouch young and signs of at-foot joeys.



Bird strikes

If you hit or run over a bird, stop to check that it hasn't gone into the grill or engine. We have rescued many birds from the front grills of cars so it's worth checking if you have accidentally hit a bird.



Spray painted crosses

You may have seen animals by the side of the road with a large crossed spray painted on them. This is how wildlife rescuers let other rescuers know that the animal's pouch has already been checked for live young.

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