

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE
RESCUE SERVICE CQ Inc

Pouch Check Rescue Guide

**Any First Aid supplies in this
kit are intended for ANIMAL
use only, not intended for
human use.**



Hotline Number 0447 543 268 | wildliferescuecq.org

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE RESCUE SERVICE

POUCH CHECKING GUIDE.

How to safely check a marsupial pouch and help out orphaned wildlife

Thankyou for stopping to check on injured or deceased wildlife on our roads.



It is not uncommon in Australia for wildlife to be hit or injured by cars but sadly around half the wildlife hit will not be killed outright on impact and will suffer. We can reduce the impact on wildlife numbers by stopping and performing a pouch check to see if there are any joeys in the pouch. Remember that joey's can survive in a deceased mum's pouch for up to 4 days, so always check!

TIPS ON STOPPING TO HELP:

1. **Your safety is important!** Make sure you are parked well off the road, turn on your hazard lights, use a high-vis reflective vest if you have them. Use the disposable gloves in your kit to keep you safe from blood and other organic matter.
2. **Know your location.** This is important when releasing the animal back to the wild when it is old enough or healthy enough. Make a note on your phone, drop a pin on your map, look at what3words.com to grab your exact location.
3. **Grab your wildlife rescue kit from your car**- this will help you assist the animal.
4. If an injured animal is still hopping on the road and could be a hazard to the other drivers on the road, please call 000 to get assistance from the police to manage the traffic.
5. If the animal is dead, please move its body well off the road if it safe to do so. Even if the body is male and you do not need to pouch check, moving it off the road ensures the safety of any carrion animals who may try eating the carcass.
6. Check if the body is male or female. This is easily done by checking for the presence of testes or a pouch. Either are located on the lower stomach. If the body is male, please mark with a large X with red spray paint and your job is done. If there is a pouch, turn the page over to learn how to check it.



Pouch Checking Kit

What should you keep in a kit?



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There is no set standard for a pouch rescue kit, but the below items are a great start!



A plastic basket with a lid. You can keep the entire rescue kit in here when not in use! This is good for possums, echidnas or other animals that like to escape! If you don't have a plastic basket with a lid, use a large canvas or cotton tote bag.



**hand sanitiser and/or
cleansing wipes**



**Rounded head scissors,
tweezers and safety pins**



**some basic first aid
supplies like
bandages or wound
dressings**



**Red spray
paint**



**Disposable
gloves**

**Towel/s
and/or
pillow
case**



**soft, warm
baby
blanket**

Hi Vis Vest



**Adult sized beanie or pre-made
joey pouches if you have access or
the ability to make some.**

How to check the pouch

1. Locate the pouch- most marsupials have a small pouch opening at about the belly button level on the abdomen. Be aware some marsupials like wombats are lower and open backwards.



2. Make sure older joeys cannot escape when you open the pouch so have a towel or blanket ready at the entrance of the pouch.

3. Use your hands to pinch the fur or skin to lift and stretch the opening of the pouch to look inside. You can use your phone to help see inside. Some joeys are right down the bottom of a pouch so check the entire pouch.

4. If there is a joey, look at the next page for instructions on how to safely remove. **If you are not confident and have the ability to transport the mothers body, leave the baby in the pouch and transport the mothers body to a wildlife carer or vet.**

How to remove a joey from the pouch

A Hairless or “Pinky” joey

- Sometimes joeys are very small and aren't immediately obvious. It's always good to double check
- Joeys can be at different developmental stages inside the pouch and very young joeys mouths may be fused to the teat in a suckling position - **pulling these joeys off the teat forcefully can be fatal.**
- If the teat is still inside the joeys mouth, use scissors to snip the teat from the inside of the pouch, leaving it inside the joeys mouth. Attach a safety pin to the loose end of the teat to prevent the joey from swallowing or choking on the teat.





Furred or “Velvet” Joey

- If it is not attached to the teat, gently remove the joey from the pouch. It is important to be extremely gentle when removing the joey from the pouch because it is small, scared, fragile, and possibly injured.

Care for All Joeys regardless of size or species

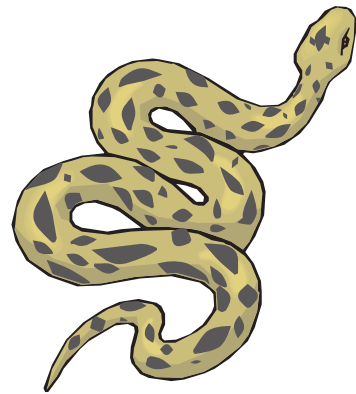
- Warm the joey. Joeys rely on their mothers for warmth because they can't regulate their own body temperature. gently place the joey in a pre-made fabric pouch, beanie, towel or jumper and use your own body heat to keep it warm. You can also use a hot water bottle or shop bought hand warmers, however caution needs to be taken not to overheat the joey.
- Do not give anything to eat or drink unless advised by a registered wildlife carer.
- Take the joey to the nearest vet clinic or call the AWRS Hotline immediately and follow advice given
- Remember! In Australia it is illegal to keep native wildlife without a license. Please do the right thing and hand the wildlife over to those who are able to ensure they are rehabilitated and released appropriately.





What if it's not a marsupial?

- Birds and reptiles will more than likely need immediate medical attention from a vet. These are usually free to members of the public.
- Be careful around snakes and other potentially venomous reptile or amphibian
- As a rule of thumb, do not give animals anything to eat or drink unless directed to by a vet or a qualified wildlife carer.
- Keep the injured bird, reptile or other mammal warm, dark and quiet. A box covered with a towel and not in the direct blast of airconditioning is good.
- Call the Australian Wildlife Rescue Service if you find any injured or abandoned Native Animals.
- For non-native animals, call our friends at Mackay Pet Rescue on 0400 239 039



Call us!



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- 0447 543 268 -

Wildlife Rescue Form



AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE
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Photocopy this form or download a new form for each animal you have rescued.
Hand this to the Vet or Wildlife Carer. You can download from our website

AWRS Hotline Number 0447 543 268

Name of the Finder/Rescuer: _____

Phone Number of Finder/Rescuer: _____

Date of Rescue: _____

Time of Rescue: _____

Where did you find the animal? (address if possible)

Do you know how the animal was injured/Reason for Rescue?

Vehicular Accident Abandoned by parent Weapons

Household Pet Attack Just found unwell/injured Parasites/Mange

Entangled in barbed wire/fencing Poisoning/pollution/toxic waste

Fighting with other wildlife Other: _____

Was the animal found in a pouch?

Yes No Unknown

Has the animal been given anything to eat or drink?

only do this if advised by a registered wildlife carer

Yes No Unknown

If yes, what was given, what time and how much?

Have you provided any first aid to the animal? If yes, what?

Yes No

I consent to the wildlife rescue or veterinarian to contact me if they need
additional information on the above number Yes No

If possible, I would like to be updated on the animals condition. I understand
this may not be possible. Yes No

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