



Living with Wildlife

Your backyard can be a safe place for wildlife. Pet management and wildlife-friendly fencing should be considered.

Follow these steps to keep your wildlife visitors safe.

1. Provide safe access

- **Wildlife-friendly netting:** Bats and birds can become easily entangled in netting around your backyard. To prevent this, wildlife-friendly netting is available from hardware stores.
- **Fence design:** Avoid sharp spikes or barbed wire. Small gaps at the base of fences will allow animals like echidnas, blue-tongued lizards and possums to pass through.
- Create dense plantings or use hollow logs and rocks to give wildlife a place to hide from pets.

2. Responsible pet ownership

- **Dawn and dusk:** Keep cats and dogs indoors or in an enclosed area during these times when wildlife is most active.
- **Cats:** They are hunters by nature. Build a secure cat run or enclosure to reduce the risk of hunting native wildlife.
- **Dogs on a leash:** When walking your dog, use a leash to prevent chasing or harming wildlife.
- **Keep food secure:** Avoid wildlife getting into your pet food by storing it in a closed container.

3. Protect native animals

- **Don't feed wildlife:** Feeding native animals can alter their natural behaviour and diets, sometimes becoming reliant on us.
- **Plant native species:** Feed your wildlife in your backyard by providing native trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. These provide a natural food source for your visitors.

4. Observe and educate

- **Take note:** What wildlife is visiting your backyard? Look for tracks, scats or burrows.
- **Encourage neighbours:** Share what you have learnt with your neighbours to extend safe access for wildlife.
- **Support wildlife carers:** Volunteer with your local wildlife rescue centre. They need you.

Injured animals

If you think an animal may be sick or injured, contact your local wildlife rescue or Wildlife Victoria (03) 8400 7300 for advice.



BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY

