

What to Do if You Find Injured or Orphaned Wildlife in Tasmania

Tasmania's native animals are unique and precious. Sadly, many are injured or orphaned each year through car strikes, pet attacks, entanglement, or natural events. If you come across an animal in distress, quick action can save a life.

1. Keep Yourself Safe

- Never put yourself or others at risk.
- Injured wildlife may be scared and can bite, scratch, or struggle.
- If the animal is on a road, ensure traffic is clear and use hazard lights or wear high-visibility clothing if available.

2. Call for Help

Call the **Bonorong Wildlife Rescue Service on 0447 264 625** (available 24/7). When you call, you'll hear two options:

- **Press 1** – for an injured adult animal
- **Press 2** – for an orphaned animal (joey, chick, etc.)

Depending on your selection, your call will either:

- Go through to the **Bonorong Rescue Service**, who will put out a rescue call to the nearest trained rescuer, or
- Divert to **WIRES Tasmania**, who will take your details and send out a care request to registered wildlife rehabilitators.

If no answer leave a message, **they will return your call.**

3. While You Wait for Help

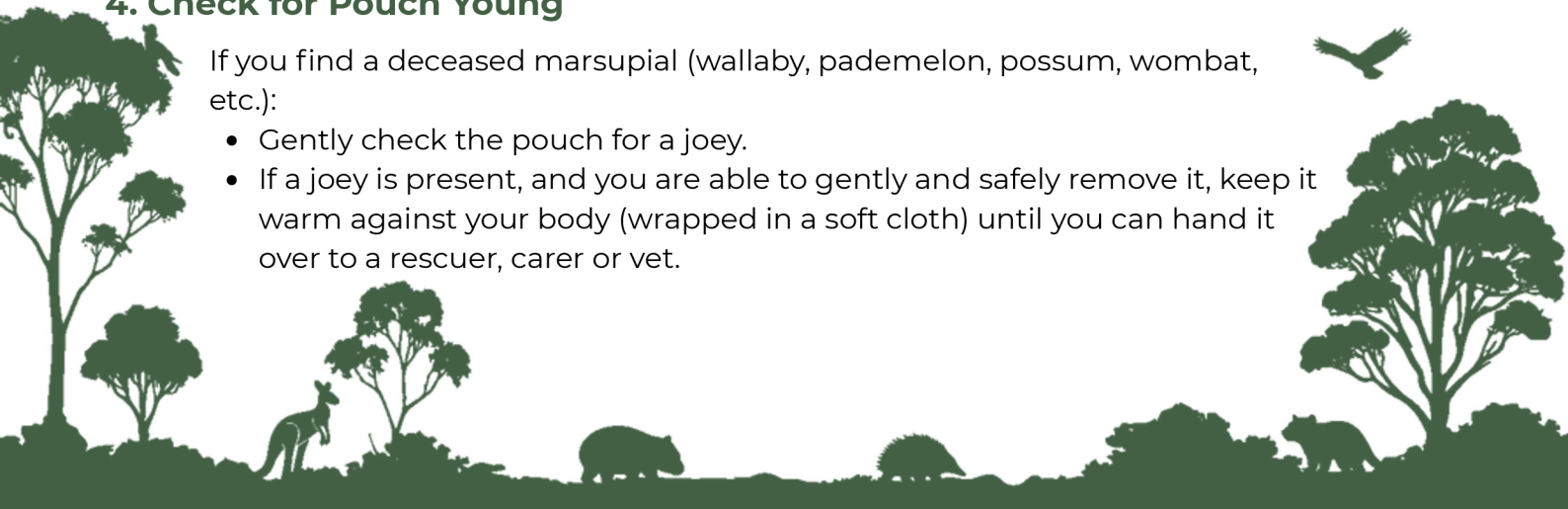
If it is safe to do so:

- **Contain the animal** – place it in a ventilated box lined with a towel or soft cloth. Keep it warm, quiet, and in the dark.
- **Minimise stress** – avoid handling, noise, or showing the animal to others.
- **Do not feed** or give water unless advised. Incorrect food or fluid can be fatal.

4. Check for Pouch Young

If you find a deceased marsupial (wallaby, pademelon, possum, wombat, etc.):

- Gently check the pouch for a joey.
- If a joey is present, and you are able to gently and safely remove it, keep it warm against your body (wrapped in a soft cloth) until you can hand it over to a rescuer, carer or vet.



- If the joey is attached to the teat do not pull it, you can damage the joey's mouth very easily. If in doubt leave the joey in the pouch and transport both joey and mum to a vet or registered carer. A rescuer can help here, so do wait for help if you would prefer.

5. Vets and Wildlife Care

Not all vets in Tasmania are able to accept wildlife. In most cases, Bonorong or WIRES Tasmania will arrange vet support directly on a case-by-case basis. Call Bonorong on **0447 264 625** first for guidance before approaching a clinic.

6. Preventing Future Harm

- Drive cautiously, especially at dawn and dusk when wildlife are most active
- Keep cats indoors and dogs under control
- Replace harmful fruit-tree netting with wildlife-safe netting
- Fence mindfully and check boundaries regularly

Quick Contacts (Tasmania)

- **Bonorong Wildlife Rescue Service** (24/7) – 0447 264 625
- **WIRES Tasmania** – available through the Bonorong number above
- **Wildlife Network Tasmania** – info@wildlifenetworktasmania.org.au
- **NRE Tasmania** - wildlife@wildlifeservices.org.au

♥ Every call, every action, every safe rescue helps protect Tasmania's unique wildlife. Thank you for caring.

