

Possums

I found a Possum and I want to help it! What do I do?

1. Make sure rescuing is required. Is it sick, injured or orphaned?
2. Have you considered your own personal safety first?
3. Can you secure the animal efficiently, without injury to yourself or further injury to the animal?



**POSSUMS ARE LACTOSE INTOLERANT SO DO NOT FEED THEM COWS MILK
REMEMBER! STRESS THROUGH HANDLING CAN KILL**

Is it an Adult?

Adults can be covered with a towel or light blanket and scooped up in the towel, place the towel and adult in your holding cage or box. Adults require a secure cage for holding through the day (a cat carry basket is good)

Any injured animal requires veterinary attention should be taken to the nearest veterinarian immediately. Keep the animal quiet and away from the disturbance of domestic animals. While transporting the animal ensure the container is safe and secured.

If the adult appears to have no injuries then protect it from cats and dogs through the day and give it the chance to return to its home after dark. If it is still there in the morning then seek Veterinary attention or further advice.

Is it a Juvenile?

(has fur but obviously a youngster)

These are youngsters with a covering of fur and can be picked up by draping a towel over the animal and scooping it up. Place in a secure box, lined with old newspaper and leave the towel in there, for the youngster to hide in. Cover the box with another towel. They may have become lost from the back riding position on the mother or crawled out of her pouch and lost their grip. If you have a possum in your backyard and you suspect it may be the mother possum, try reuniting the juvenile when night time comes around. Keep the juvenile in the protected box or basket during the day. Give it some high energy fluids one or twice to see it through and then place the youngster as close as possible to where you found it, around 8 pm at night.

Keep your own domestic animals away from it during the day and at the re-uniting attempt.

If re-uniting does not succeed then orphan rearing the juvenile will be a necessity. The animal can be passed onto an Experienced Wildlife Carer, your nearest Vet or Parks & Wildlife, in your area. If it is more than 24 hours until you can get the animal to a trained carer then put a dish of high energy fluids and some chopped fruit (banana, pawpaw seem well accepted) in the box

High energy fluids are warm boiled water and add 1 teaspoon of honey to 250mls of water or 1 teaspoon of glucose powder to 250mls of water.

Is it an infant?

(without fur, eyes maybe shut)

In the short term the infant must be kept warm, it needs to be removed from the mother if she is dead as her body will lose its heat and chill the infant. Wrap the infant in a cotton hanky or turn a pillowcase inside out (so that the seams do not press on the fragile baby), put the wrapped infant in a warm environment and contact an Experienced Carer or Vet if the animal is injured. The easiest way to keep an infant warm is to wear it but this may not suit everyone. Try placing the wrapped infant near a jar of warm water, wrap in a woollen jumper, or use a hot water bottle. Be sure the warm source is not too hot. The recommendation is that for the first 24 hours energy fluids on a regular basis will see the infant through.

If you are unable to contact an Experienced Carer or get informed advice at this point, the recommendation is that for the first 24 hours energy fluids on a regular basis will see the infant through. Use a dropper to feed the tiny animal a few drops every hour. If it's getting messy, wipe with a tissue and at night go two hours between feeds, so you can get some sleep!