

FACT SHEET

PETS AND WILDLIFE



Pets are wonderful companions and they become an important part of our families. Unfortunately they can be a real danger to our native wildlife. 30% of all emergency calls to Wildlife Victoria are related to cats and dogs injuring wildlife. Being responsible pet owners allows our pets and the wildlife in our communities to co-exist in harmony.

Cats are not native to Australia and instinctively prey on birds, lizards, frogs, possums, bandicoots, microbats, native rodents, etc. regardless of how well fed they are at home. It is a natural instinct of a cat to hunt. A cat that is allowed outside is in danger of being hit by a car, getting in a fight with other cats, contracting diseases and statistically has a shorter life expectancy than an indoor cat.



Dogs too will harass and chase wildlife such as lizards, birds, frogs, koalas, wallabies, wombats and kangaroos. Sometimes dogs will instinctively chase another animal out of their territory. Other times it's a simply case of the dog being bored and wanting something to play with.

HANDY TIPS: Below are some ways you can help wildlife and look after your pets.

- Keep your cat indoors; it's easy, humane and safer for your cat
- Install a cat run or cat enclosure in your yard for your cat to enjoy the outdoors**
- Have your pets desexed to prevent any unwanted litters
- Microchip your pets and update your details should you move
- Register your pets with your local council
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times when it's outside your backyard
- Ensure that your dog is well exercised and given attention.



**SPECIAL OFFER: THE CAT SHACK

The Cat Shack can build you an enclosure just like this one to protect your feline friend and our precious wildlife. Mention "Wildlife Victoria" to receive a discount of up to 20%. Visit www.thecatshack.com.au for more information.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, save the Wildlife Victoria Emergency Phone number in your mobile phone:

13 000 WILDLIFE (13 000 94535)

Wildlife Victoria Inc. is a not for profit, volunteer based charity, providing a vital emergency phone service to the community by responding to calls regarding sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.