

LOCAL WILDLIFE NEED YOUR HELP



Mammals, birds and reptiles need your help to survive! The ongoing extreme fire event around the Blue Mountains and across the State has had a devastating impact on local wildlife with major loss or destruction of fauna habitats, refuges and food sources. Many creeks are dry and normal water supply sources are very low. Animals are under considerable stress and in these conditions there is often much displacement.

Actions residents can take to provide a safe refuge for native fauna around your homes.

Provide drinking water for all types of animals, birds and reptiles.

- **Birds** – A range of shallow curved-floored bowls and bird baths can be used by both large and small birds. Keep in a shady but open area and where possible place near a shrub to provide refuge.
- **Terrestrial animals** – Many terrestrial animals may need to drink including reptiles, echidnas and bandicoots. Poultry drinkers are better than open dishes.
- **Arboreal mammals** – Some species such as the Greater Glider and Ringtail Possum receive adequate water from their diet, but supplementary water can be provided by securing a Poultry Drinker in branches of trees using ropes and ladders.

Things to think about

- Be aware of predators. Keep pets (cats and dogs) away and raise water on a pedestal to limit predation.
- Reduce risk of drowning by animals. Avoid deep dishes that limit access in and out.
- Avoid using metal bowls that heat up in the sun.
- Place water and refuges near trees and shrubs.
- Provide shade and safe refuge where possible such as rocks, logs, pipes and man-made structures.
- Keep water clean and refilled.
- Please consider keeping your cats and dogs inside.
- Some NGOs and government agencies are undertaking food drops and there are organisations collecting donations to purchase special food pellets.
- There are some increased risks of leaving food out including predation risk, nutritional problems and competition from aggressive animals.

Further information

Peter Ridgeway, Senior Land Services Officer (Biodiversity) at Greater Sydney Local Land Services, has created a series of useful fact sheets that you can read online: <https://bit.ly/2U3x91E>.

What else can you do?

These are some of the organisations providing urgent care for wildlife impacted by bushfires:

- **WIRES** Wildlife Rescue Line: 1300 094 737 (13000 WIRES)
- **Animal Rescue Collective ARC**