

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Road Kill and Injury.

Be alert

Look for wildlife.

Slow down at night

Native animals are active between dusk and dawn.

Honk your horn

To scare animals off the road.

Don't litter

This may attract animals to the road.

Move animals off the road

Slow moving animals, like lizard and echidnas, can be moved off the road.

Move dead animals off the road

This will discourage other animals from venturing onto the road.

Check animals on the road

Marsupials such as kangaroos, koalas, possums and wombats may have a joey in the pouch.



It was too late to save this wombat - another victim of the roads. Luckily she didn't have a joey in her pouch.

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Information in this brochure has been used with kind permission from the **Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania**

web site

www.parks.tas.gov.au



Alu, a Common Wombat, rescued as a tiny joey from the pouch of her mother who had been hit and killed by a car. Alu was raised and released at Fourth Crossing Wildlife.



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Reducing Wildlife Road Kill and Injury

Each year millions of animals are killed, orphaned or injured on our roads, and sadly many die a slow and painful death.

Affected species range from lizards, frogs, birds, kangaroos, wombats and possums - and many more!

Entire local populations have been known to become extinct due to road kill. These collisions can also result in human injury or death and costly property damage.

While preventing road kill and injury entirely is not realistic, we have the ability to strongly reduce the occurrence.

There are several methods that can be used by road designers to reduce road kill and injury, but what works best is motorists being aware and taking action!



This is Eugi, a Brushtail Possum joey. Eugi was rescued from the pouch of her mother who had been killed from being hit by a car. Sadly, due to internal injuries sustained from the collision, Eugi died the day after coming into care.

Rescue Kit Equipment

The following items are good things to keep in a rescue kit that can be kept in your car.

- **A heat source** - EG: a hot water bottle (wrapped and filled with hot water only – not boiling), grain filled bag, etc.
- **Thermometer** for checking temperature. Place probe near joey and place the thermometer unit where it can be easily seen.
- **Scissors.**
- **Antiseptic**, such as Dettol.
- **Pouches** (eg pillowslips), **towels**, and **blankets of assorted sizes.**
- **Torch.**
- **Milk replacer** (eg Di-Vetelact or Wombaroo. These can be purchased from most vets).
- **Electrolyte fluid**, such as Vitrate or Glucodine.
- **Bottles and teats.**
- **Syringes** (without the needle).
- **Disposable gloves.**
- **Paw Paw ointment** (a great natural wound cleaner and healer).
- **Wet Ones** (alcoholic hand wipes to clean your hands after rescue).
- **Safety pins** (to pin pouch liners together).
- **Vet wrap** and assorted bandages.

For tips on rescuing joeys from the pouch, see brochure:

How to Safely Remove a Joey from the Pouch of its Dead Mother

Reducing the Toll

There are a number of methods available to reduce road kill, some of which have been already been implemented in parts of Australia.

These include:

- **Reflectors**, which are attached to guide posts and reflect headlights into the bush to deter animals from the road;
- **Providing shelter** on the roadsides for animals to hide in;
- **Underpasses** with 'funnel' fencing to encourage animals to cross underneath the road surface;
- **Rope overpasses** or even solid, vegetated overpasses;
- **Escape routes** that assist animals to cross barriers such as steep roadside banks so that they can get off the road when a vehicle approaches;
- **Signage and rumble strips** to alert drivers to wildlife;
- **Reduction of vegetation** and water to discourage animals from the roadsides;
- **Traffic slow points**; and
- **Removal of carcasses** from the roadsides to reduce deaths of scavengers.

If your council does not implement these methods then you could lobby them and suggest that they are.



© Carol Pullar

This wombat was hit by a car, the joey was thrown from the pouch.



Remember to check pouches of marsupials - there might be a joey alive inside!

Take Action!

The best way to reduce road kill is for people to take responsibility for their own driving habits. You can do the following things to reduce your chance of hitting an animal:

1. **Watch out for wildlife.** There are more animals on the roads in spring and summer when emerged pouch young are venturing away from their parents, and some animals are basking on the warm road surface. Road kill occurs most often between dusk and dawn when nocturnal animals are on the move.
2. **Slow down.** If you can't avoid driving at night, make sure that you leave enough time to drive slowly. Slowing down by at least 10 km/h (up to 35km/h on fast roads) will mean that you are more in control when you come across an animal, and will also give the animal more time to respond.
3. **Honk your horn.** This will scare animals off the road. Make sure the animal is well off the road before you pass it.
4. **If it is absolutely safe to do so, move dead animals off the road.** This will reduce the attraction of scavengers such as birds of prey.
Do not stop your car unless it is clearly visible to traffic in both directions.

5. **If you hit an animal** or encounter an injured animal, please stop only if it is absolutely safe for you to do so. Wildlife can be aggressive when scared or injured. If this is the case, mark the spot and contact your National Parks and Wildlife office or local wildlife group.



This possum was rescued from the pouch of its mother that had been hit by a car and killed.

This Echidna received beak damage after being hit by a car.