

In fire affected areas, surviving wildlife will be disoriented, smoke-affected, hungry and severely dehydrated. Many animals are likely to be suffering burns to some degree. Wildlife may also be displaced by fires and wander into populated areas. Residents can place containers or water above ground in a safe and shady area to assist stressed wildlife in fire-affected areas. Wildlife rescue teams will be on standby to assist in fire-affected areas to treat wildlife. Individuals encountering sick, injured or orphaned wildlife should call either one of the wildlife groups e.g. Kimberley Wildlife Carers and Associates, or the local Vet or the Department of Environment and Conservation. Experienced operators can offer advice and arrange assistance.



**KIMBERLEY WILDLIFE  
CARERS AND ASSOCIATES**  
A.B.N. 54997442389

0428 860 014



**Department of  
Environment and Conservation**

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**If you find an injured native animal suffering burns - *What to do*** - When dealing with injured or orphaned wildlife after wildfires, it is important not to frighten or try to catch them. All wild animals should be treated with caution, especially when they are distressed and injured. Untrained members of the public should only tend to those animals that are severely injured or unlikely to be able to care for themselves. Wild animals that may bite, or are otherwise dangerous (e.g. venomous snakes) should only be handled by trained wildlife rehabilitators.

*If the animal is small:* Place it in a pillow case or cloth bag. Place this in a box a little larger than the animal. Place the box in a shady and cool place. Contact a wildlife rehabilitator or the vet and arrangements will be made to collect the animal.

*If the animal is large:* Keep clear of the animal and attempt to leave it undisturbed i.e. keep pets away and unnecessary vehicle traffic. Note its location and apparent difficulty. Contact the local wildlife rehabilitators, the vet, or DEC and describe the situation. The wildlife expert will be able to offer advice on how to proceed.

Untrained members of the public should only provide initial care to injured wildlife. Ideally, the animal should be taken as quickly and quietly as possible to a qualified vet or rehabilitator. The long-term care and rehabilitation of native animals is best done by experts.




**N**ative wildlife is particularly vulnerable following a bushfire, due to injuries and reduced food and shelter. Lock up domestic animals to stop them preying on or harassing native wildlife. Provide water for wildlife. Place a stick or rock in the container to prevent animals from being trapped or drowning in deep containers. Drive carefully through burnt out areas to protect remaining wildlife. Refrain from providing hay as feed for wildlife in burned bush land to reduce the spread of weeds and the subsequent degradation of wildlife habitat. In non-natural areas it may be possible to provide food for distressed wildlife however this should be done in consultation with the wildlife care groups to ensure that foods are as close to a natural diet as possible. Wildlife should not be attracted to areas where they may be vulnerable to predation by domestic pets. Small animals are more prone to getting injured in fires than larger animals.

## Join the Volunteer

### Bush Fire Brigade

The Broome Regional Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade meet once a fortnight for training and skills development in bush fire prevention and control. The Brigade is always looking for new members. If you are interested in fun, fitness and a great social network, come along to assist in the safe keeping of your community. Contact the Shire on 9191 3456 for further information.



Government of Western Australia  
Fire & Emergency Services Authority

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FESA

Download this A4 booklet from

<http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au>

1300 657 209



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## WILDFIRES AND WILDLIFE

