



GIVE WILDLIFE A BRAKE – SLOW DOWN

Collisions between vehicles and wildlife are a serious problem for species conservation and management, road safety and the economy. Crashes result in substantial personal, environmental and economic losses.

The following tips may help save you from costly vehicle repairs or personal injury as well as saving our wildlife

Watch for the signs- Always reduce speed in areas with wildlife warning signs—Don't disregard the signs just because you have seen them before—they are located in high wildlife use areas.

Slow Down—You can anticipate and avoid wildlife hazards more successfully at a slower speed. Reduce your speed at dusk and dawn when light levels are low and animals are active also during the night, on dark overcast or foggy days, in unfamiliar or rural areas or on roads that are near water or have juicy grass on the edges.

Drive defensively - actively watch for wildlife and be prepared to stop. The eyes of kangaroos, wombats and other wildlife actually shine (or reflect back) in vehicle headlights, allowing you to see their eyes in the darkness. Keep on the lookout for animals along the sides of the road at night.

All animals are unpredictable— If you see wildlife slow down immediately and be prepared to stop, even if the animal is a considerable distance from the road. Even if an animal sees you it might still run in front of your vehicle

- Animals blinded by headlights may be reluctant to move—flash your headlights and be patient
- Some animals may bolt—possibly onto the road
- Some animals and ducks travel in groups. If one crosses the road the others may follow.

To swerve or not to swerve—Do not take unsafe evasive actions. Serious accidents can occur when drivers lose control of their vehicles trying to avoid an animal. Swerving can take you into the path of an oncoming vehicle or off the road into a tree. Consider using your brakes not your wheel. Driving at a slower speed may mean that it is not necessary to swerve at all.

If a collision with wildlife occurs please report a dead or injured animal to WIRES or your local council. A dead animal will need to be removed from the roadside to prevent further accidents and an injured animal may well have a chance of surviving if receiving early attention. Please do not leave a badly injured animal on the road to suffer without notifying WIRES or your local wildlife carers. Call **WIRES on 1800 641 188** or visit www.wires.org.au

If you find an injured or orphaned native animal, handle it as little as possible, follow the simple [animal first aid steps](#) and call WIRES 1800 641 188.

