



PENGUIN VETERINARY CENTRE

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The Best of Care for All Animals: Birds and Wildlife Welcome.

Caring for Injured or orphaned Wildlife:



If they are injured: keep them warm, quiet and closely confined. Place a broken wing or leg into a comfortable position, then roll the whole animal in a soft towel to prevent further movement or struggling. You are providing comfort and security. You can then place it in a secure box or breathable bag for transport to a rehabilitation centre, RSPCA, or veterinary clinic.

All wild creatures are stressed & fearful when handled; if they seem unafraid they are either very young or very ill. Some instinctively keep very still; but most struggle and may injure themselves; some may injure you.

Always be careful: you cannot help them if you are hurt yourself!

Provide warmth & safe confinement. Most settle in a dark, safe, enclosed space, such as a suitably sized strong but breathable sack [NOT plastic!] Try a cotton pillow-case, cotton "supermarket" bag, or the tied-off sleeve of a jumper. Then place them in a warm, dry, secure box, add some dry grass or leaf-litter for comfy smells.

Do Not Feed them until you have professional advice. Incorrect feeding can be harmful.

However a "Rescue" drink may help: A body-warm solution of 5 - 10% glucose [energy] plus electrolytes [to offset dehydration], and given very carefully by mouth.

A "Car Kit" to prepare for injured wildlife:

1. Sturdy cotton bags, perhaps "supermarket", "library" or "beach". These can be used to lift the animal, then inverted around it to retain it safely. Make sure they are 'breathable' and can be securely tied off or held.
2. A bottle with water-tight lid that can be filled with warm water and placed next the bag for contact warmth

A “Care-Kit” for orphaned joeys:

1. A Source of comfort: An artificial pouch: warm beanie, tied off sleeve of a jumper etc.
2. A Source of warmth: Warm “bedding” is not enough. Provide a warm micro-waved wheat bag, a warm-water bottle, electric blanket, or your own body warmth (pop them under your jumper). Take care they do not overheat, nor chill overnight. We sell electric heat pads that maintain a steady, comfortable warmth.
3. A Source of nourishment:

A 50ml feeding bottle & suitable Teat: artificial Marsupial teats [made by Wombaroo] fit deeply in the throat whilst not pressing onto the joey’s narrow gum-line.

“Rescue” formula. A body-warm solution of 5 - 10% glucose [for energy] plus electrolytes [for rehydration], and given very carefully by mouth.

We suggest “Vytrate” which we stock as dry sachets, or a liquid ‘cordial’

Small quantities can be fed often until a suitable replacement formula is obtained.

For an **“emergency milk”** to keep on hand, we suggest “Formula One” which we stock in various sizes. Later, you can move on to a species specific “Wombaroo” milk [wallaby, wombat, possum etc] “Biolac” is also good. “Divetelac” is OK for joeys old enough to digest solids ... they have solid, pelleted faeces.

FIRST FEED Offer 5% glucose & electrolytes (e.g. “Vytrate”) in pre-boiled water cooled to 35C

KEEP Feeding that, little and often, until you can provide a suitable replacement milk.

Then:

SECOND FEED Mix up your chosen formula, diluted back to ½ strength with Vytrate.

THIRD & SUBSEQUENT FEEDS Full strength formula

But if the joey’s droppings become fluid, re-dilute to ½ strength and then re-strengthen more slowly.

At first, feed them each 2 – 3 hours, then each 6-8 hours once settled. Twice daily is enough once they are onto solids.

Aim at providing 15 -20% of the joey’s metric body-weight each 24 hours .

So: A 200g Joey will need 30 – 50ml each day: perhaps 5 – 10ml each 4-6 hours

A 1kg joey would need 150 -250ml daily: 25-40ml each time if fed 4-hourly

If a joey doesn’t drink enough at each feed, feed it more often.

Do not overfeed, do not force-feed. Take things slowly and carefully. Let the joey adjust, & keep it warm.

**We have emergency “Joey-Care Kits” available here:
from \$15, with all proceeds going into our “Strays and Wildlife” jar**