



Wombats

What to do if a wombat is found on your property

- A wombat walking around during the day could be an indication that something is wrong, so please call us even if the wombat looks healthy and uninjured. If the wombat looks “mangy” call us, and see information below.
- Wombats will not act aggressively but will charge if they feel cornered, so it’s best to keep a safe distance and keep children and pets away from them.
- Wombats will ignore fencing - they will either push through or burrow underneath it. A heavy flap (think of a wombat version of a cat flap) placed in the fence aligned with the wombat’s trail is the best option to keep the fence intact. The wombat will be able to push through the heavy flap while other animals will not have the strength.
- If the wombat is digging a burrow under your property the simplest step would be to “dirty up” their living space. Wombats are very clean animals and do not enjoy a dirty home. Strong smelling objects, such as blood-and-bone fertiliser or dog faeces placed in and around the burrow can be an effective deterrent.



A rescuer attempting to trap a wombat

We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our emergency response service for advice on **03 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au.



Wombats

Mange in wombats

- Sadly, many of our native wombats are infected by the disease, mange, which is thought to be spread by foxes.
- Wombats are a nocturnal species, so if you come across a wombat walking around during the day with hair loss or scabs and open wounds it may possibly have mange. Dog attack wounds can look similar, so it's best to snap a photo and give us a call.
- Mange can be spread between wombats and can be spread to other animals, such as dogs.
- Mange can be successfully treated. Treatment can occur in the wild which is much less stressful for the animal than going into care. This involves placing a specifically designed device at the entry to the burrow that tips medication on to the wombat as it enters after a night out.



A wombat severely infected with mange



Mange treatment in the wild



- There is a great group of experienced volunteers committed to treating mange in wombats in the wild called the Mange Management Group. If you come across a wombat with mange, please take a photo of the wombat, record the location, and report the wombat to the **Mange Management Group online at www.mangemanagement.org.au/new-map**.

We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our emergency response service for advice on **03 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au.



Wombats

General information

- Wombats are marsupial mammals. They are identifiable by their short legs, small ears and teddy bear-like structure.
- They feed on herbivorous plants and roots, and will also eat bark from native trees.
- Wombats are mainly found along the south-eastern side of Australia.
- Adults are generally around a metre long and weigh between 20 and 40 kilos.
- Wombats are nocturnal animals, so you are unlikely to come across a healthy one during the day. However, in the cooler months, they do take advantage of the low light to come out to graze.
- Wombats use their faeces to advertise their territory – they will often leave their distinctive cube-shaped poo in prominent places like rocks or tree stumps as markings.
- A single joey will generally stay with its mother for 18 months, and a female will give birth once every three years.



Interesting facts

- A wombat generally lives for around 5 years in the wild, but they can live up to 30 years in captivity!
- A wombat's burrow can be up to 30 metres long below the ground.
- Female wombats have a backwards facing pouch, so that when they are nursing their young, they don't fill their pouch up with dirt when digging a burrow.
- Wombats can run up to 40km per hour!
- The closest living relative to a wombat is a koala!



We hope that by increasing your understanding and awareness of our beautiful wildlife, you feel empowered to deal with wildlife situations confidently in an informed, safe and appropriate manner. For support at any time, please call our emergency response service for advice on **03 8400 7300** or report the details on our website: www.wildlifevictoria.org.au.