



## Cats and Wildlife

It's possible for you to have a furry companion without causing harm to wildlife. The misconception that cats cannot live indoors is so great that cat owners let their cats roam freely leading to devastating consequences for native wildlife.

According to the *Australian Wildlife Conservancy*, cats kill 75 million native animals every **day** in Australia. With statistics like this, it's easy to understand why Australia has the highest rate of species extinction in the world.

But the truth is, cats can live happy, healthy lives completely indoors which not only prevents wildlife from being predated on, but reduces the chances of cats being hit by cars or injured by other animals or humans.

The Cat Haven have information on how to keep cats indoors and can provide advice on building "cat runs" and enclosures.

If you find a native animal that has been injured by a cat, follow these steps:

1. Pick up the animal using a towel to prevent yourself being bitten or scratched.
2. Place the animal in a secure container such as a cardboard box or pet carrier.
3. Be sure to keep the animal quiet, in a dark environment and kept at room temperature or slightly warmer. Do not leave the animal in an air-conditioned environment (even on hot days), as this can cause the animal to go into shock.
4. Once the animal is secured, transport it to your nearest wildlife rehabilitation centre or veterinary clinic. Take care to reduce noise during transport by leaving the radio off and asking young children to remain quiet.
5. Do not offer food or water to the animal unless advised to do so by a veterinarian or wildlife rehabilitator.

Cats are amazing animals and provide many positives to our lives. Let's all do our bit to ensure not only cats are treated with respect and kindness but wildlife are given the opportunity to survive for many years to come.

