

Pouch Checks

It's crucial to check the pouch of any deceased marsupial! Joeys can remain alive for several days after their mother has passed, protected in the pouch.

Marsupials with pouches include: kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, wombats, possums, gliders and bandicoots.



Live possum joey in the pouch of its deceased mother

Have you ever wondered why a deceased kangaroo, koala, wombat or possum has been spray painted with a cross or an 'X'? This indicates that the animal's pouch has already been checked for young.

If you spot an animal on the roadside that doesn't appear to have been sprayed, please stop to check (if safe to do so) or contact Wildlife Victoria if you are unsure.



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.



Pouch Checks

Steps to checking a pouch:

- Please make sure the animal is moved away from the road, but remember - your safety is your priority.
- Carefully open the pouch with your hands (use gloves if available). You might need a torch for better visibility.
- Joeys can be as small as a jelly bean. At different developmental stages, different approaches are required when removing a joey from the pouch.
- The mouth of a joey might be fused to a teat. Please DO NOT pull the joey off the teat because this can injure its mouth. Please contact Wildlife Victoria in this case for advice and assistance.
- Once you have determined that the joey can be removed from the pouch safely, please do so very gently as they can be very fragile. It is also extremely important to keep the joey warm as they can't regulate their own body heat at this young age. By carefully wrapping the joey in something warm like a towel, jumper or blanket, you are providing a safe environment for the joey.
- If you are able to, please transport the joey to the local vet or carer by calling Wildlife Victoria first for the details. We will also let them know you are coming.
- If you are unable to transport, please contact Wildlife Victoria immediately.
- If you are able to, it is actually favourable to transport the joey while it is still inside the pouch of the deceased mother to the local vet or carer. This will prevent injuring or distressing the young joey.



Cutting the teat off the deceased mother, instead of removing it from the joey's mouth, will prevent injury to the joey. If you're not confident about doing this, please bring both mum and joey to a vet, or call Wildlife Victoria.

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