

Have you ever seen injured wild animals while you are out and about?

Would you like to do something to help them?

Have you thought of making a rescue box for INJURED native wildlife?

This can be kept in the boot of your car, without taking up too much room.

injured animals survive best IF taken quickly to a wildlife rehabilitation centre, such as Kanyana

To Start your rescue box, get a suitable box, for example , from the supermarket.

You will use this to secure and transport the animal.

**It must have a lid**, so that the animal cannot escape.

This will be suitable for Securing most animals, **except for echidna**.

Now we will add all the items you will need to safely rescue an injured animal.

Start by adding a towel which will stop the animal slipping in the base of the box and keep it warm.

The towel can also be used to catch animals like birds or bobtails and even mammals.

Add a Pillow case which will act as a pouch is good for securing mammals and is also good for reptiles

Add a hair band (or elastic band) for tying the pillow case closed to secure the animal

Add a ball of string and scissors to cut the string into the right length to tie the cardboard box securely closed

Don't forget to include a torch to Use to look inside a pouch

or to look for injured owls at night

You will also need a notebook and pen to write down where and when the animal was found

This is very important for territorial groups of animals like magpies. Here you can have a different groups at the same location at different times of the day. So, this information is critical to make sure the animal is release to the correct family group.

You must have disposable gloves to use when there is a lot of blood from the injury. These will keep you safe.

You will also need leather gloves to protect yourself from biting parrot beaks, owl or raptor feet or prickly echidna spines

A Final note for echidnas – they will escape easily from your cardboard box even if you tie it securely, An Eski box is ideal for Securing an injured echidna, so you may also need one of these handy.

Once everything is in your rescue box – place it in the boot of your car.

Now you are prepared to help injured wild animals.

**BUT**, before you try and rescue: **Remember - safety first**

Do not attempt rescue if it endangers you in any way

Large Mammals- bigger than a pillow case – are too large to handle safely, so leave them alone. DO not attempt to rescue – but call the wildlife helpline for help.

for large parrots, owls or raptors, remember to put your leather gloves on. Then CONTINUE AS FOR ALL BIRDS, approaching the bird from behind with a towel folded back over your hands to protect them.

If you find a bobtail, approach it from behind, cover it and support it in the middle. If you assist one to cross a road – put it on the side it was going to, otherwise it will just try and cross again when you leave.

Remember, **you are a predator to the animal**, so working quietly and covering its eyes with a towel or pouch as soon as possible will significantly reduce its stress.

Once you have secured, the injured animal it must be kept:

Warm

Quiet

Secure

And MUST be taken to a wildlife care facility as soon as possible.

If a dead mammal is found – check the pouch for young. Do not try to force any joeys found off the teat – RATHER cut the teat away to remove the young joey. Put it in a pouch, keep warm against your body, and take into wildlife care facility as soon as possible.

Now you are ready to start your journey as a wildlife hero.

If you would like more information, contact Kanyana and get a copy of their Glovebox Guide, full of useful rescue tips and very handy to be keep in your car.