

Protecting Wildlife through responsible pet ownership

Australia is home to around 7,560 native animal species.

However, their numbers are quickly diminishing thanks to a variety of human-induced threats.



One of the biggest threats to native animals, is a killer on the prowl... feral and pet cats.

Cats: cute and lovely creatures that they are, are highly evolved predators. Even if well fed, they are instinctive carnivores that continue to hunt wild animals. They are not native to Australia, and so their impact has not co-evolved with our native animals, putting our natives at huge risk.

According to the Australian Government, cats are responsible for 1.5 billion native animal deaths each year in Australia¹. What a cat-astrophe!

If you have a cat or know someone with a cat, what are some ways you can make sure to keep those killer claws away from our native wildlife?

Number 1 – Cat Control

Logan City Council regulate feral cat impacts under local government regulations stating that your pet cats are required to be contained within the boundary of your property. The RSPCA advocates in this space and both establishments conduct regulatory checks and impoundments in the area.

If you see a cat on the prowl in your neighbourhood, a free cat trap is available to borrow for 1 week from Logan City Council, and the trapped cat will be taken to the pound where the owner will have to pay a release fee to retrieve it. For more information contact Logan City Council at 3412 3412.

There are ways to keep your pet cat entertained indoors, and there really is no need for it to be let outside to cause havoc. Cats, fussy as they are, will be happy inside or in a contained outdoor area if they have the following:

- Vertical and horizontal climbing perches near a window
- Hiding spots, i.e., some boxes or fabric
- Scratching posts to keep their claws trim
- Plenty of toys, and catnip or cat grass for your cat to play in and nibble on
- A place to bask in the sun and access to an outdoor enclosure if possible - a good way to set up an outdoor cat enclosure is by adapting an aviary or enclosing a section of your veranda or patio.
- Daily attention and plenty of food, water, and a clean litter tray
- Regular walks outside on a leash.

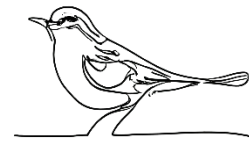


¹ Queensland Government (2023) *Draft updated threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats.*, Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water. Available at: <https://consult.dccew.gov.au/draft-updated-threat-abatement-plan-for-predation-by-feral-cats>

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Keeping your cat contained also protects them from injury and infection caused by fights with other cats, prevents diseases such as Feline AIDS from spreading, dog attacks, ticks, unwanted litters and it also protects them from being hit by cars. Desexed cats are also less likely to roam.

If your cat is a little escape artist, as many of them are, please put a bell on your cat to warn their unsuspecting prey that they are ready to pounce, and ensure your cat is micro-chipped and registered with council. Be a responsible pet-owner and protect those who cannot protect themselves from the highly evolved furball-predators that cats are. Our important and wonderfully diverse native animals will thank you.



Number 2 – Dog Control

Cats are not the only culprits in Australia, causing such destruction to our native animals and ecosystems. Pet dogs also have a significant impact, especially on larger animals including our Endangered Koala populations on the east coast. Attacks from dogs are the third-most significant cause of mortality within the 'Koala Coast'.²

Koalas travel from tree to tree by walking on the ground and this is when they are vulnerable and susceptible to attacks from dogs. Koalas will also be in trees other than eucalyptus, such as mango trees, poincianas and casuarinas for shelter, refuge and steppingstones to their next eucalyptus food trees.

Whilst Lendlease has established Koala exclusion fencing and other Koala protection strategies outlined in the Koala Management Plan Yarrabilba UDA (Urban Development Area) it is very important that dog owners limit the movement of their dogs between dawn and dusk as most dog-Koala interactions happen at night-time. Keep your dog away from significant trees during the night by confining dogs to the house, or a portion of the yard from 6pm to 6am.

To keep Koalas and other wildlife safe from your pet dog you can do the following:

- Give your dog its own play area fenced off from the rest of the yard, Koalas don't consider dogs to be predators so they will come down to the ground even if dogs are present
- Keep your dog confined or restrained at night when koalas are most active. Pet behaviourists recommend dog denning to overcome behaviour problems such as barking and separation anxiety, dogs also feel more secure when they have their own space (den)
- Start a Koala watch project with your friends, neighbours or family – check trees in your garden or local park for koalas and inform your neighbours when you see one, and encourage your neighbours to do the same. You can even report your Koalas to

² EPA (2002). Trees for koalas Coastal south-east Queensland.

http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/publications/p00765aa.pdf/Trees_for_koalas_coastal_southeast_Queensland.pdf. Queensland Environment Protection Agency, Brisbane.

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help Logan City Council plan better to protect them by submitting your sightings here: <https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/report-wildlife-sightings>-form or on iNaturalist (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/native-animal-and-plant-sightings-in-the-city-of-logan>)

- Retain and/or plant native trees in your yard, especially species such as Eucalyptus tereticornis, Eucalyptus propinqua and Eucalyptus microcorys (if you have a big yard, over 400m²), or in smaller yards, try lovely bushy natives that provide steppingstones for Koalas so they don't have to come to ground – Melaleuca salicina, Melaleuca irbyana, Glochidion ferdinandi, Barklya syringifolia, Brachychiton populneus and Eucalyptus curtisii are great options! Reach out to Lendlease for recommendations on where to buy or find free native plants!
- Keep your dog on a lead at all times, unless in a dog off-leash area that is fenced



According to Logan City Council, if your dog even approaches a person in an aggressive manner, let alone has attacked either a person or another animal such as a Koala, you may be responsible and liable through civil action. We don't want this for anyone at Yarrabilba, and so it's always best to just keep your dog under control at all times.³

Our Fauna Corridors and Environmental Protection Zones have been designated as dog exclusion zones, so check for signage throughout public spaces in Yarrabilba, because if Koalas and other wildlife such as wallabies are present in that area, your dogs must be restrained. Dogs are only allowed to be unleashed in your own home, or in Yarrabilba's dog parks. Refer to the Koala Management Plan Yarrabilba UDA (Urban Development Area) available on the Lendlease Yarrabilba Sustainability page, for more information.

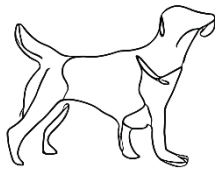
<https://communities.lendlease.com/queensland/yarrabilba/live-here/sustainability-and-environment/>

³ Logan City Council (no date) *Dog attacks and regulated dogs*, City of Logan. Available at: <https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/pets-and-animals/dangerous-menacing-breeds>

Places for your pets at Yarrabilba:

Speaking of dogs, did you know that Yarrabilba is home to great dog parks? Buxton Park and Shaw Street Oval both have a large off-leach dog areas, and other amenities, such as the electric BBQ, fitness equipment and a playground located in Buxton Park. Both you and your dog will be able to enjoy being out in nature!

Whether you're looking for an adventure-filled outing in the great outdoors, a relaxing place to switch off and enjoy some R&R or a setting to connect with friends and family, we've got you covered with our extensive list of [Yarrabilba's parks](#).



Attracting Wildlife:

Native animals in Australia perform a vital function in maintaining the balance of important ecosystem services that keep us all alive. From producing our food (think pollinators, crop-pest predators and animals that eat all our waste), to cleaning our air (think trees, algae and native grasslands), all native animals are important. Attract pollinators like native bees to your garden by planting some great Australian native plants. The bees cannot resist them!

Plants from the following list are native to Yarrabilba and fantastic and attracting native pollinators to "do their job" and support your garden's glow!

- Acacia amblygona
- Acacia fimbriata
- Acacia granitica
- Banksia spinulosa
- Brachyscome macrocarpa
- Bursaria spinosa
- Dillwynia retorta
- Eucalyptus curtisii
- Hovea acutifolia
- Kennedia rubicunda
- Leptospermum polygalifolium
- Melaleuca irbyana
- Melaleuca (Callistemon) pachyphylla
- Melaleuca (Callistemon) viminalis
- Ozothamnus diosmifolius
- Olearia nernstii
- Pultenaea reflexa
- Pultenaea villosa
- Zieria laxiflora



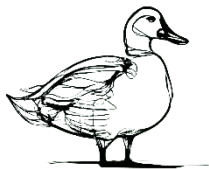
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Logan City Council also suggests the following tips for choosing plants for your backyard to attract more wildlife ⁴:

- use plants of different heights like groundcovers, bushes, shrubs, and trees – creating a variety of forms and structures makes it easier for native animals to hide from predators
- use plants that flower and fruit at different times, so there is a food source throughout the year
- think about the wildlife you want to attract:
 - prickly bushes, like bursaria or shrubs like banksias, give shelter for small birds
 - native grasses, like kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*) give food for birds like finches that eat seeds
 - some plants are important food for butterflies like the Richmond birdwing butterfly vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*) and the Swordgrass (*Gahnia clarkei*).
 - clumping plants like lomandra and dianellas are great near a frog pond – make sure to surround your frog pond with dense foliage like these to keep out Cane Toads
- replace some of your lawn with native groundcovers to reduce mowing and give homes for small lizards and insects – maybe even consider installing a pile of cut logs to biodegrade and create even more habitat!

Logan City Council also has a Free Tree Program, as a resident of Yarrabilba, you can take advantage of this. Visit <https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/trees/free> for more information on where and when to collect them from.

You may be tempted to feed birds but only do so by matching their natural diet. Avoid processed food like mincemeat, bread and seed mixes with a high sunflower content - these foods cause fat deposits to build up around their livers which over time cause the birds to become sluggish, and then die.⁵



⁴ Logan City Council. “Wildlife Safe Backyards – Logan City Council,” n.d.
<https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/environment/safe-backyards>.

⁵ Queensland Government; Department of Environment and Science. “Feeding Wildlife the No-Nuisance Way.”
Environment | Department of Environment and Science, Queensland, March 10, 2021.
<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/feeding-wildlife>.

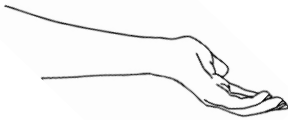
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Coming to the aid of wildlife:

Someone call 000! You know what to do with people, but what do you do with animals?

If you see a sick or injured animal, do not just drive by but call RSPCA on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625) and their 24/7 Animal Emergency Hotline will tell you what to do.

Or, contact the Australian Wildlife Hospital Emergency Hotline at 1300 369 652.



Whatever you do, do not try to handle an injured animal where there is risk involved in case you injure yourself or cause further injury to the animal. If you need to move the animal to a safer place, always wear gloves or use a thick jumper or towel to protect yourself from scratches or bites. Move the animal to a quiet and warm enclosed space as quickly as possible (wrap it up in a towel and put in a box) that is well ventilated and protected.

And do not touch any bats (flying foxes or microbats) unless you have been trained and vaccinated against the dangerous, but extremely rare, Bat Lyssavirus.

For more information visit: <https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/wildlife/sick-or-injured>

Protecting yourself from dangerous wildlife

What do you do if you encounter a snake in your home or garden? As a Yarrabilba resident, you must be aware that being in South East Queensland, snakes are present particularly in the springtime - so be prepared! If you see a snake, follow the following steps:

Step 1: Do not try to catch it or kill it

Step 2: Walk away slowly whilst keeping an eye on it, make sure your pets are away from it too

Step 3: If it is safe, take a photo to text to a snake catcher

Step 4: If the snake is inside the house, close the door of the room it is in, and place a towel under the door to prevent it from escaping

Step 5: Call a snake catcher to have it removed

There are 2 local snake catchers you can call to remove a snake in Yarrabilba:

1. Snake Catchers Logan at 0474 826 129 <https://snakecatcherslogan.com.au/>
2. Harrison's Snake Catcher Logan at 0401 263 296 <https://snakecatcherlogan.com.au/>

Check out more information about snake safety:

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/snakes>

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Parks and nature reserves:

At Yarrabilba, we are lucky enough to live right on the doorstep of the beautiful Plunkett Conversation Park, Wickham National Park and Wickham Timber Reserve all of which are open to the public to explore the open eucalypt forests, woodlands and heaths and enjoy a scenic bushwalk, horse-ride or cycle along many of the shared trails.

Although the parks are for all to enjoy, please ensure you not take or leave anything whilst you visit, whether it be taking flora or fauna materials such as logs or flowers or leaving behind rubbish or litter. If you are bringing your dog along with you, ensure your dog is always kept on a leash and under control at all times. For more information please visit: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/plunkett-wickham>



Wildlife in Yarrabilba:

We've spotted a range of local wildlife safely moving throughout the community, thanks to the creation of Yarrabilba's fauna corridor!

Did you know that the wildlife corridor provides a means for our local wildlife to move freely throughout the landscape, as well as connecting natural areas to the east and west of the community?

The corridor also provides habitat and shelter for a large variety of native animals, and in several locations, the corridor is intersected by road corridors.

These road corridors may form dangerous or even impassable barriers for wildlife which could severely limit the function of the corridor. Because of this, several measures have been taken to facilitate their movement. These include:

Large culverts – these culverts allow for dispersal for a variety of terrestrial animals such as the eastern grey kangaroos and red-necked wallabies that frequent the area. Large rocks are situated on both ends of the culvert to present shelter for smaller animals before and after crossing the culvert.

Log crossings – logs are mounted to the side wall of the culverts, running the entire length of the culvert. These logs provide an alternative crossing for arboreal animals such as koalas or brushtail possums as the logs keep them off the ground where they may become easy prey for foxes or dogs.

Rope ladder crossings – rope ladder crossings span across the road at approximately six metres of height between two poles and connect to surrounding tree canopies. These rope crossings provide another way for arboreal wildlife to cross the road corridor in a relatively safe manner. Gliders and possums are most likely to utilise these crossings.

Check out some awesome footage of our local wildlife using the above here:

<https://communities.lendlease.com/queensland/yarrabilba/news/spotted/>

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