

# Please do not feed wildlife



## It alters their natural behaviour

Wild animals become less experienced at foraging for their natural food when fed by people. They can also lose their fear of people and harass them for food.

It is important that wild animals are naturally wary of people as not everyone's intentions towards animals are positive. Also, people who are afraid of animals may accidentally injure an animal that approaches them.

## It contributes to overpopulation

The reproductive rate and numbers of animals surviving in the wild is often determined by how much food is available.

Providing an unnatural food supply can result in native animals producing more young than the natural food supply can support. If the food source is removed, animals may starve to death because there is not enough natural food to support the excess population.

## It can make some animals aggressive

Some native species are territorial, only interacting with others of their species during their breeding season and when raising young.

Artificial feeding can result in overcrowding as more animals are enticed to easy food. This can lead to aggression as animals compete for food.

Both animals and people can be injured by aggressive animal behaviour, particularly as animals become more and more brazen in their attempts to get food.

## It can lead to animal destruction

Animals may need to be relocated due to aggressive behaviour. Animals are at risk of injury or death during relocation and then have to deal with social displacement. People involved in the relocation are also at risk of injury.



## It causes poor nutrition

Native animals have specialised diets. Processed foods like bread do not provide appropriate nutrition and contain additives that can cause health problems or death.



## It can upset the natural balance

Feeding can increase the population of a species, leading to aggressive defence of an area and pushing out other species.

## It can increase vermin numbers and spread disease

When food is readily available, native animals can gather in unusually large numbers.

Animals crowding at artificial feeding sites can transmit diseases to other animals more quickly. Uneaten food can also attract vermin.

Some native animals may carry diseases that have the potential to be spread to people. For further information on animal health please visit [www.wildlifehealth.org.au](http://www.wildlifehealth.org.au).

## It can lead to property damage

Feeding one animal can lead to many more animals demanding food, which can impact on your neighbours.

As animals lose their fear of people, they may begin pestering neighbours for food. They may also cause damage to peoples' homes or property.

Large numbers of birds waiting on house roofs for their feed may be noisy and leave droppings, which can affect rainwater tank quality.

Providing water for emus around homes encourages them to hang around and increases unwanted encounters between emus and people, dogs and cars.

Large numbers of native animals that congregate in public areas defecate on lawns and walkways.

**Enjoy the wildlife, but please protect it and yourselves –  
do not feed wild animals.**



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife

