DESCRIPTION: There are 30 species of possums all nocturnal herbivores.

Brushtail: It is large with fluffy prehensile tail, naked on its lower underside. They have four colour variations are silver-grey, brown, black, and gold. They only give birth to a single joey.

Ringtail: Common ringtail possums are grey- brown to red- brown with a white underbelly, have short, rounded ears with white behind them. They curl their long tails into rings when not in use.

Glider: Gliders have soft, silky fur that can be light grey to light brown in colour. They have large eyes and large pads on their toes. Gliders have flattened tails that help them steer, brake, and anchor themselves when landing.

Common Brushtail

Common ringtail

Sugar glider

QUESTIONS TO ASK A CALLER

What type of possum is it? or get a photo

How big is it? Does it have fur?

Are there any signs of injury? Eg missing fur or visible blood?

Where did you find it? How long has it been there?

Is the animal moving around at all?

INJURED OR OPHANED POSSUM

1. If you find a possum on the ground during the daytime, this is not normal behaviour.
2. A young possum separated from its parent will not reunite with its mother during the day. It needs to go to the vet for assessment.
3. If the possum appears injured, lethargic, or unable to move properly, it needs immediate attention.
4. If the possum has little or no fur it needs to be kept warm and a vet or rescuer ASAP
5. If a dead possum is found check the pouch for young
6. Ensure pets are kept indoors to avoid any potential conflicts with the possum.

Can you contain the possum for a rescuer to come out?

Containing an injured possum:

- ***Do not*** *approach the possum aggressively, as it might be frightened and react unpredictably.*
- *Gently place a towel over the possum.*
- *Place the possum in a ventilated box with a lid.*
- *Transport the possum carefully to a vet or wait for a rescuer to arrive.*

POSSUM (NUISANCE)

Does the caller know how the possum is gaining access to the area eg roof or shed etc

1. Rescuers cannot trap possums that are living in the roof.
2. It is against the law to relocate an animal off your property in all states.
3. Offer advice on repairing the access after the possum has vacated.
4. Providing a possum box in your yard wildliferescue.net.au/help/making-a-possum-box/

Best Advice:

Put the caller in touch with a licenced possum catcher. There will be a fee for this service.