



BOUVARD COAST CARE GROUP

www.bouvardcoastcare.org.au

Western Ringtail Possums in your Area

Volunteers from the Bouvard Coast Care Group have recently conducted surveys of the populations of the **critically endangered Western Ringtail Possum** in your area. Good numbers of possums were seen on the evening spotlighting counts, including females with a baby following, or still in the pouch. The Ringtails in Dawesville are now the most northerly population of the species, and further surveys are needed.

You may have Ringtails coming onto your property. The Western Ringtail possum is probably the only endangered mammal in the area that an individual can help personally, and the action you take **can** make a difference to the survival of your local population.

Some relatively simple, but important, things you can do for 'your' Ringtails in addition to those mentioned in the accompanied brochure are:

- **Put some water containers out for them in elevated positions**, especially during the coming hot summer months. Bird baths are good for birds but possums cannot access them unless there are branches hanging into them. Some wonderful people have set up containers in trees with drip feeders from their reticulation to keep them topped up.
- **Become aware of possum nests (dreys)** and avoid pruning trees too heavily which can break canopy connectivity.
- **Keep your cats and dogs inside at night**. Preferably from dusk. The small nocturnal Ringtail is often the victim of attack by domestic pets, and feral cats, when it has to come to the ground, either for water, or to get to the next tree if the overhead branches do not connect.

If you find an injured or orphaned Ringtail, keep it safe, and either ring (Sue: **0476 274 710**) so I can come and collect it, or take it to Mandurah Wildlife Rescue. If it has visible injuries please take it to a vet. They do not charge for wildlife, and they will treat its injuries then pass it on to a carer to rehabilitate.

For Additional Information about the Western Ringtail Possum. The Busselton Possum Centre and the Department of Parks and Wildlife have websites with extensive information on the Western Ringtail Possum.

www.possumcentre.com.au

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

Or you can join our possum group at <https://bouvardcoastcare.org.au/possumgroup.htm>