

We investigate reports of sick & dead wildlife from free ranging populations in Victoria to understand baseline health, detect changes & identify risk factors. This is important because wildlife health can affect biodiversity conservation & ecosystem health, & can interact with biosecurity & the health of people & domestic animals; One Health.

If you see wildlife from free ranging populations with any of these signs of disease, please contact us. We can ship carcasses to Werribee overnight for investigation.

Kangaroos & Wallabies.

- Incoordinated, wobbly or apparently blind macropods (photo) can be due to Kangaroo blindness virus (spread by midges), phalaris staggers from pasture, or toxoplasmosis from cat faeces.
- Eye & nasal discharge, sneezing & tail twitching. Herpes viruses have been identified.
- Bony lumps on legs.
- Eastern grey kangaroo sub adults. Weakness & death in high density populations due to a blood sucking intestinal worm.



Parrots & cockatoos.

- Beak & feather disease due to Circovirus.
- King parrot morbidity & mortality due to intestinal protozoa, *Spironucleosis spp.*, usually in winter.
- Crimson rosella (photo) mortality & morbidity due to *Chlamydophila spp.*, which can cause disease in people.



Botulism in water birds.

- Botulism toxin causes paralysis and death (photo). The bacteria multiplies in rotting carcasses and spores can persist in the ground for years. Please monitor wetlands over summer.



Short-tailed shearwaters. Mortalities in October.

Koalas.

- Mange: Scurfy skin above feet, on sternum and face due to the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*.
- We are keen to investigate disease in free-ranging koalas.

Wildlife serum

- **Arboviruses antibodies.** Please collect serum from wildlife (especially herons, cormorants) for Murray Valley encephalitis etc. We also want to test dead nestlings. Small volumes of blood can be collected onto filter paper, contact us.

Frogs (photo) and turtles.

- Mortalities in frogs and turtles.



Please contact Pam Whiteley 0400 119 301 pamw@unimelb.edu.au or Dr Beveridge or Dr Chamings 97312000

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Wildlife Health Surveillance Victoria (please Google our website)