



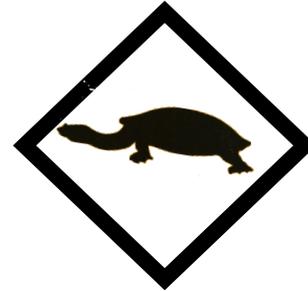
www.turtleoblonganetwork.org.au

What to do if you find a turtle

The **Turtle Oblonga Network's** aim is to ensure every turtle receives *professional and compassionate care*.

The **Network's** services include ~

- Rescue of turtles
- Rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned turtles
- Advisory service to community and wetland managers
- Community education through information dissemination and displays
- Workshops and training for wildlife professionals



Found or Rescued Turtles

We are keen to have information on any Oblong turtles found and/or rescued, whether **dead or alive** to establish patterns and collate data. Information required includes ~

- Measuring, weighing and determining gender
- Where and why they are being found / rescued / injured
- Undertake basic necropsy (post-mortem) examinations

All this information assists in building up a picture of what's going on in our native turtle populations.

If injured or in poor health, we'll take it into care where it will be rehabilitated before being returned to its home lake. If the home lake is unsuitable to return the animal, we will relocate the animal to a healthier lake. If you would like to be involved, where possible we will involve you in the relocation-release.

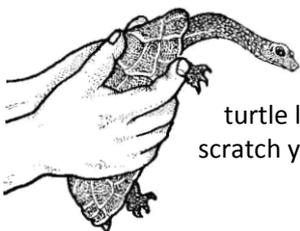
A turtle out of water, is a turtle at risk

Our turtles are freshwater turtles so if they are found in the lower reaches of the river beyond the causeway or on an ocean beach they will need to be rescued. Turtles turn up in surprising places but generally there's a lake or wetland nearby. As turtles disperse from the lakes many are killed on the roads, if this occurs in your area contact your local council to request that some temporary warning signage be erected (see below). Also contact the **Turtle Oblonga Network** which may be able to assist with volunteers to protect the turtles by helping them across roads.

Turtles found wandering on land may be dehydrated and will be stressed. Please rescue the turtle and call the **Turtle Oblonga Network** immediately. Don't leave the turtle where it is, or put it into the water, as even 15 minutes later it is unlikely we will be able to find the animal again.

The turtle will be dirty but other than a gentle rinse, please don't attempt to clean it as the shell is as sensitive as skin.

If uninjured, place the turtle in an uncontaminated container of clean shallow water, level to top of the bottom shell. Turtles are air-breathers; if weak and it cannot keep its head up, it may drown if placed in water deeper than about five centimetres, or 2 inches. Cover the container with a towel, and locate it in dark, quiet place, away from domestic machinery, children, dogs, and flies. This will allow the turtle to de-stress until we can respond to your call. We will then examine the animal and take the necessary measurements before returning it to its home lake, if it is uninjured and in good health.



When **handling** turtles be prepared for them to squirm strongly; take care not to drop them when this happens. If you are nervous about this use something like small towel which will make the turtle less slippery – use both hands as shown. The turtle will not bite and is unlikely to do more than scratch you with its claws in its efforts to escape your grasp.

from *Caring for Australian Wildlife*



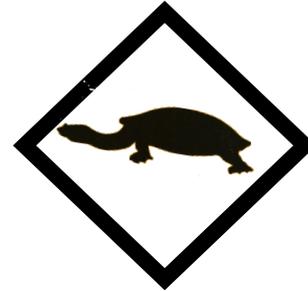
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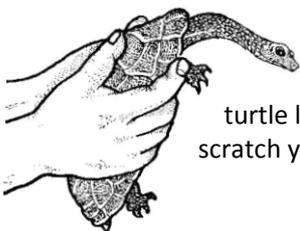
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from *Caring for Australian Wildlife*

If you find an injured turtle

- Rescue the animal and call the **Turtle Oblonga Network** immediately.
- Do not leave it as it will be at risk and we may not be able to find it even 15 minutes later.
- Weak or injured turtles are at risk of being preyed upon by Ravens; in warm weather, injured turtles are also at risk of becoming fly-blown in a very short time.
- The shell is living bone therefore any shell wounds will be painful. If the shell is cracked, the animal will probably also have broken bones.
- If it was attacked by a dog it will have puncture wounds which may have pierced vital organs, including the lungs.



Keep injured animals out of water. Depending on the injuries, we may ask you to take the turtle straight to a vet to have the injuries assessed. Keep the animal in a container with a damp towel in the base so that it doesn't slip around increasing its pain. Cover the animal with a damp hand towel



If you find a dead turtle

Please *rescue* the body. We are interested in examining and measuring all dead turtles. It is easier for the Network to collect the animal from you at home rather than have to attempt to find it in bush or lakeside vegetation



If you find a turtle egg

Handle with the minimum of movement before placing it in an egg carton padded with tissue for safety and to minimise further movement then call the **Turtle Oblonga Network** which has the expertise and facilities to incubate the egg if viable. Turtle eggs are about 4cm long, oblong in shape and look like pebbles. The Network can also advise on protecting any turtle nests found in your garden. Ravens are the main predators, along with foxes in bushland areas.

If you find a turtle laying eggs, please guard her until she's finished laying, about 15 minutes, and then take her back to the safety of the lake.

Emergency phone numbers (please don't text)

Please add these emergency numbers to your mobile phone so that you always have them to hand

For help, rescue and advice with wild turtle issues **Turtle Oblonga Rescue & Rehabilitation Network**

0424 727 411 East Metro • 0424 727 624 South Metro • 0414 476 867 North Metro

If, for any reason, the Turtle Oblonga number in your area doesn't answer, please call one of the other numbers

For sick, injured or orphaned sea or waterbirds, and marine animals

WA Seabird Rescue

0418 952 683

For sick, injured or orphaned wildlife and to report suspicious, malicious or illegal wildlife activity including poaching and hunting

7-day Statewide *Wildcare Helpline*

9474 9055



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DONATIONS TO THE NETWORK

Our unfunded Network is made up of volunteers; we rely on sporadic grants, grass-roots fundraising, donations and, mostly, our household budgets to fund our volunteer work. All donations are welcome. Please go to our website, or email us, for details.

If you would like to contribute hands-on toward our work, please take the time to look at our website which includes a downloadable membership application.

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secretary@turtleoblonganetwork.org.au

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