2024 Ringtail Tally 7th April – 4th May



Thank you for participating in the annual Ringtail Tally. Your efforts will be used to track population trends, future planning decisions, and conservation projects for the critically endangered Western Ringtail Possum. Instructions for completing your tally:

Step 1: Choose your survey site. This is a place where you have seen ringtails before; it may be your garden, local park, or patch of bush. It must be a specific location within a defined area that you can access each night of your survey, preferably 50 metres x 50 metres.

Step 2: Count the number of ringtails seen each evening at least twice a week over the four-week survey period (7th April – 4th May). Counting instructions:

- Record the number of ringtails seen within the search area on a single evening.
- Only count an animal if you are sure it is a ringtail. For identification tips, see below.
- Avoid counting the same individual twice. If you see animals at different times in one evening and you are sure they are different individuals, add them together to get a total. E.g., If you saw 1 large ringtail, followed by 2 smaller ringtails = record a total of 3 ringtails.
- If your site is an area of bushland, record the number of ringtails seen within the same area each evening. Estimate the time you spent looking for ringtails and the area you covered (e.g. 50m x 50m).
- The standard search area is 50 m x 50 m. A smaller or larger site is fine, but estimate the size of the area being searched and record it on the tally sheet. Any ringtails seen outside your defined survey area should be recorded separately in the comments.
- Conduct your survey two evenings per week, over the four-week survey period (7th April to 4th May) This
 will total eight survey evenings. It is ok to do fewer evenings than this if you cannot complete all 8. Once a
 week is the minimum number of surveys required. If you want to count on more than eight evenings,
 complete a second recording sheet.
- **How long to look for:** You do not need to be looking for ringtails for the whole night. Estimate the amount of time spent being 'on the lookout' for ringtails during each survey. Being 'on the lookout' means that you are in the search area and if a ringtail turns up, you are likely to see it. 15 minutes is the minimum time spent looking. **You can be out looking any time from half an hour before sunset to 10pm.**
- If you don't see any ringtails on one or all survey evenings, this is still important information just record zero (0) ringtails for each evening spent 'on the lookout'. Even if you have no sightings, please still submit your completed data sheet.

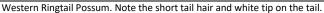
Step 3: Return completed data sheets by May 31, 2024. The preferred method is electronic submission – take a photo and email to geocatch@dwer.wa.gov.au. Alternatively, post to PO Box 269 Busselton WA 6280.

If you are having any difficulties or have questions, call 0491 069 078.

Identifying Western Ringtail Possums

The Western Ringtail Possum has dark brown fur with a cream or grey chest. It has short, round ears. Its tail is long and thin with a white tip. There is not much hair on the tail. The brushtail will have a bushy tail with more hair, do not record these sightings on your recording sheets.













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Recording sheet. You are responsible for your own safety while taking part in ringtail surveys. Dress appropriately for the weather, take someone with you or notify someone of your destination and expected time of return.

Site Information	n								
Name of lead observer(s):			Phone:			Email:			
Curvou site address:									
Survey site address:									
How did you hear about the survey?									
□ Newspaper □ Facebook/ Instagram □ Email from GeoCatch □ Other (please specify)									
Estimated size of your survey site (standard survey site = 50m x 50m).									
If the block or reserve is large, select a practical survey site within it and estimate area in square meters (m²)									
						uarem xm			
						orm²			
						or			
Description of survey site:									
□ Suburban garden □ Semi-rural house-block □ Park/Sports field □ Native bushland Other:									
Tree species ringtails are using (if known):									
Northwest transport and the state of the sta									
Number of trees on your house block:									
Other details of interest. Eg nearest crossroad, nearest crossroad, name of the nature reserve, position in park/nature reserve.									
Current Data									
Survey Data	Evening 1	Evening 2	Evening 3	Evening 4	Evening 5	Evening 6	Evening 7	Evening 8	
Date	Lvciiiig 1	Lvciiiig 2	Lvciiiig 3	Evening 4	Lvciiiig 3	Evening 0	Lveiling /	Evening 0	
Estimated									
total time									
spent looking									
each evening									
(minutes)					+				
Number of ringtails seen					1				
on that									
evening									
Total number or ringtails seen at your site over the 4-week period (add up each night).					If you didn't see any ringtails, did you see fresh evidence at your site,				
					such as scat	s (poo)? Y / N			
Total						, ,			
Did you see any ringtails outside your survey area? Y / N					Did you see	Did you see and feeding mess or dreys? Y / N			
Total outside survey area					Other obser	Other observations of interest:			
					1				
					1				
					1				
					1				







