



## WIRES COMMUNITY MANGE TREATMENT PROGRAM

By joining WIRES Community Mange Treatment Program, you can treat mange-affected wombats in your local area.

**WIRES short online course will teach you how to diagnose and treat mange.**

An experienced WIRES volunteer will guide you to:

- 1 Conduct targeted treatments on individual wombats.
- 2 Assist on large population treatments.
- 3 Enter data which is vital in making decisions involving future treatment conservation.
- 4 Set up wildlife cameras.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP SAVE WOMBATS?

- 1 Become a Wombat Warrior by joining WIRES Community Mange Treatment Program (please scan the QR code below).
- 2 Report any sightings of infected wombats.
- 3 Raise awareness about the plight of wombats with your community, family and friends.
- 4 Donate today to help us continue to rescue, treat and care for wombats around the country.



COMMUNITY MANGE TREATMENT PROGRAM



WIRES00712



## COMMUNITY MANGE TREATMENT PROGRAM

1300 094 737

[wires.org.au](http://wires.org.au)



## THE ITCHY FACTS

**Sarcoptic mange** is a skin infection in mammals that is caused by a parasitic mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*.

It affects over 100 mammalian species worldwide including humans, dogs and foxes.

Sadly, wombats are highly susceptible to these mites.

The mites are extremely small and cannot usually be seen with the naked eye. The mite burrows into the skin of its host causing thick plaques, resulting in hair loss, open wounds and diminished sight and hearing.

**IF LEFT UNTREATED, THIS DISEASE RESULTS IN DEATH FOR THE INFECTED WOMBAT.**



Mange closeup



*Sarcoptes scabiei*



## WHY WOMBATS?

Due to the way wombats live and interact, mange can spread rapidly through a wombat population.

Mites can be transmitted by:

- 1 Physical contact with a wombat already infected.
- 2 Contact with other species that are carriers, such as foxes.
- 3 Sharing burrows with other wombats.

Wombat burrows are cold and humid, the perfect conditions for the mite. Studies have shown that mites can survive in a burrow for up to 3 weeks without a wombat host present.

Two out of the three species of wombats are affected by mange. Sadly, this disease is prevalent in the Bare-nosed wombat populations in NSW, with mites being present in an estimated 90% of local populations.

## IDENTIFYING THE SIGNS

**DO YOU KNOW HOW TO SPOT AN INFECTED WOMBAT OUT IN THE WILD?**

- 1 Due to their impaired senses, mange affected wombats will often be seen out during the day.
- 2 A wombat's spine will be the last section of the body to lose fur, so look for a mohawk of hair down the wombat's back.
- 3 Crusty skin on their body and around their eyes and ears.
- 4 Foul smelling odour.

Dog attack wounds and marks from other wombats can often look like mange, so the site of the wound is important.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE WOMBAT'S EXACT LOCATION AND REPORT IT TO YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE ORGANISATION.**

The sooner a wombat with mange is treated the more successful their treatment will be.



Dog attack



Wombat attack