

NO CAGE IS SAFE FROM **OPERATION AVIARY**

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TEAMS CAGEY ABOUT WILDLIFE THIS BUSHFIRE SEASON

Victoria's leading wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups have joined together in a call for help leading up to this year's bushfire season.

WAR, BADGAR, AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL RESCUE, NIGELS ANIMAL RESCUE and HELP FOR WILDLIFE need the public's help. These volunteer groups are asking for pre-loved aviaries, cages and animal carry boxes to be donated to help ease the burden on the pending bushfire season.

Last year, these leading groups worked day and night on location at fire grounds, tirelessly assisting sick, injured and orphaned wildlife during the fires. To add to the already stretched resources, the everyday work across Victoria still had to go on, each answering hundreds of calls a week for Aussie animals in distress.

Now, with only weeks to go until the real danger season kicks in, volunteers are asking you to donate that old aviary or cage sitting unused in the garage! These items are used in the rescue and transport of our wildlife during day to day operations. There are hundreds of volunteers across the state, who are screaming out for such items.

Everyday, unsung heroes of the wildlife world go un noticed as teams rescue everything from injured koalas and birds, through to roos, snakes and other native critters and with all of the work self funded, it's time we did our bit to help. "Having all of the major groups join forces for this operation is heartwarming, we all need the help so thought we'd launch operation aviary as people start to clear out the garage in time for the Christmas madness that is quickly approaching. We're not after the small canary cages as such, but if we can get our hands on medium to large aviaries, you have no idea how much this will help our work" explains Mandy Hall, the coordinator of Operation Aviary!

The teams will collect the items if a drop off is not available and the goods will stay in the local area it was donated, with 100% going straight back into local shelters, rescuers and rehabilitation teams. People can donate by calling one number to be connected to the closest person in their area. 1300 223 427 is the number for all donations. This number should also be stored in your mobile in case you ever need the services of a rescuer. And, if you don't have an un-occupied aviary to donate, then of course, cash donations all help to cover the person cost of foods, treatments, vet bills and more. Just \$10 can help feed a baby koala for a day.

Please support your local wildlife rescue groups and donate to operation aviary! Melbourne and regional Victorian collection teams are ready.

Not for publication:

Mandy Hall can be contacted on 0421 471 007 for further information on the operation and its logistics.

A high res image of an injured bird can be obtained for using in publication by emailing: walter.collins@freedommedia.com.au

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