

Your guide to  
identifying animal poo

# Parent pack



# Who's scat is that?

**Have you ever gone bushwalking and wondered 'whose poo is that?' Wildlife poo is known as scat, and it can be very useful in working out what species are nearby because each type of scat is different.**

**We've developed a handy guide so you can brush up on your animal scat knowledge and detect what animals have been wandering your local trails.**

**If you're not too squeamish, you can learn a lot from animal poo. Of course, some scat will begin to dry out and look different with age, so if you really know your business you'll be able to tell how long ago the animal was there. Koala poo, for example, goes from a moist green to something that looks more like dried out grass pellets, letting you know if the koala was there the night before or months ago.**



## When you're out exploring our bushland take a closer look and see if you can pick which of these animals it belongs to:

### Koala

Koala poo is about the size and shape of an olive, and is usually a dark greenish colour. It's probably one of the least offensive types of poo to your senses, because it smells strongly of eucalyptus.

Koalas produce these little pellets 24 hours a day, even when they're asleep, and they produce a lot of them – up to 360 a day.

### Kangaroo and wallaby

Macropod scat is usually shaped like uneven little balls and can be about 1-3cm across depending on the size of the kangaroo. You'll often find it in small piles, or even in lines.

It's black on the outside but the inside is dry and yellowish-green, so you can easily see that the roo's main food is grass and leaves.

### Possum

This varies depending on the species of possum and what they're eating at the time.

Brush-tail possum scat is a similar shape to koala poo, but a little smaller, and it can range from greenish brown to dark brown or black, depending on whether they're helping themselves to garden fruit trees or eating leaves.

Ring-tail possum poo is about 1cm long and a dark brown to black colour. It can be best described as an uneven pellet that looks a lot like an olive pit.

### Wombat

You'll never mistake a wombat poo for any other animals, because wombats are famous for doing a square poo. This is because of their very slow digestive process.

### Microbat

If you have microbats living in your roof or chimney, you're likely to see their poo lying around. It's very similar to mouse poo in size, shape and colour, but the consistency is much drier.

If you're looking at a little black poo and wondering whether it came from a bat or a mouse, put on rubber gloves and roll one between your finger and thumb. Mouse poo will squash, while bat scat crumbles.

### Fox

Fox scat looks more like cat poo than dog poo. It is dark brown to black and about the length and width of a woman's thumb, and it can look a bit dry and stringy with a pointy end. You will often see hair and insects in the poo.

Some things look like poo, but actually aren't  
Some birds of prey like owls cough up a pellet made of all the things they can't digest a few hours after eating. Smaller birds like currawongs and magpies may also produce these pellets.

They can include things like fur, hair and bones from small mammals and reptiles and wings and exoskeletons from beetles and other insects, and seeds. The size of the pellet depends on the size of the bird. A magpie pellet is about 3cm long, but a larger bird like a barn owl can produce one that's about 6 or 7cm long.

### Scat identification



Brush-tailed possum



Eastern grey kangaroo



Koala



Red fox



Wombat



Wombat



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