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Animal collisions jump 22% as AAMI urges drivers to stop ignoring wildlife signs

- Animal collisions have increased by 22 per cent year-on-year according to new claims data from national insurer AAMI.
- New alarming research from AAMI found more than 40 per cent of Aussie drivers don't pay attention to wildlife warning signs, and most drivers (60 per cent) would dangerously swerve or slam on the brakes to avoid colliding with an animal, putting themselves and other drivers at risk.
- The research found one in ten Aussies don't know what they would do if they crashed into an animal.
- More than half (54 per cent) of Aussie drivers have been involved in an animal collision, with the majority of these occurring on rural and regional roads.

Analysis of more than 21,000 AAMI animal collision claims across the country in 2023 found:

- NSW is the most dangerous state for wildlife collisions (30 per cent), followed by VIC (29 per cent) and QLD (24 per cent). In the previous two years, VIC was the most dangerous, followed by NSW and QLD.
- Dubbo in New South Wales holds the dubious title of Australia's worst animal collision hotspot, followed by Sunbury in Victoria and Goulburn in New South Wales.
- The animal species involved in most crashes are; kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, deer, dogs, cows, emus, pigs, fox and rabbit*.
- In Australia, the cooler months are the worst time of year for animal collisions, with more than a quarter (28 per cent) of road accidents involving wildlife taking place between June to August. Almost 60 per cent (58 per cent) of all animal collisions occur between May and October.
- Dusk is the most dangerous time for animal collisions, with a quarter of accidents occurring from 4:30pm- 8pm.
- Animal collisions can be costly, with the average cost of an insurance claim greater than \$5,000.
- In around 16 per cent of claims involving an animal in the last year alone, the damage to the vehicle was so severe, the car was written off.
- Saturday is the worst day of the week for wildlife related road accidents – with almost one third (31 per cent) of incidents taking place over the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

The worst hotspots for animal collisions across the country are:

Location	#1 Hotspot	Most Common Time	Most Common Day	Most Common Animal Hit
National	Dubbo, NSW	4.30pm - 8pm	Saturday	Kangaroo
New South Wales	Dubbo	4.30pm - 8pm	Sunday	Kangaroo
Victoria	Sunbury	8pm - 12am	Saturday	Kangaroo
Queensland	Nebo	4.30pm - 8pm	Friday	Kangaroo
Western Australia	Baldivis	4.30pm - 8pm	Wednesday & Saturday	Kangaroo
Tasmania	Kingston	8pm - 12am	Sunday	Wallaby
South Australia	Port Augusta	6am - 9.30am	Sunday	Kangaroo
Australian Capital Territory	Canberra	12am - 6am	Sunday	Kangaroo
Northern Territory	Katherine	4.30pm - 8pm	Friday	Kangaroo

Key insights from AAMI's research:

- When asked how they would respond if an animal appeared on the road, only 28 per cent would keep driving, even if it meant hitting the animal and damaging their car.



- Most Aussies don't know when animals are most active, the majority (80 per cent) incorrectly believe the worst seasons are summer and spring, with one in five (19 per cent) also incorrectly believing it's late at night when dark.
- If they hit an animal, 9 per cent of drivers would keep driving and not check on the animal's welfare.

Comments attributable to Leah James, AAMI Motor Claims Manager:

"This year, our research tells us almost half of Aussie drivers ignore wildlife warning signs - a concerning statistic as we head into winter when this is more likely to occur.

"These signs are in place for a reason - to keep road users and wildlife safe. Paying attention to wildlife signs may not prevent an animal collision from happening, but it will help you start preparing so you're less likely to swerve in shock.

"AAMI's research found only around a quarter of Aussies would keep driving, even if it meant hitting an animal and damaging their car. What people might not know is that it can be more dangerous to swerve to avoid hitting an animal than to keep driving. Swerving can mean losing control of your car, and increase the chances of colliding with a tree, pole or another vehicle, injuring yourself, passengers and potentially other drivers.

"Our claims data consistently tells us dawn and dusk are the most dangerous times for animal collisions. During Winter, days are shorter and many of us are on the road when there's low light in the early mornings and late afternoons. This coincides with when nocturnal mammals are most active, so drivers need to be more vigilant, and on the lookout for wildlife.

"To avoid a collision with wildlife, slow down when you see warning signs, scan the road ahead, and use your peripheral vision to keep an eye on the edges for wildlife feeding, or about to cross."

Comments attributable to Kristie Newton from WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service):

"As habitat loss and extreme weather continues across Australia, our native animals are being displaced from their natural homes and forced into urban areas in search of food and shelter. Last year, the #1 animal crash hotspot Dubbo lost 351 ha of tree cover**. Sadly, because of the increase of habitat loss and extreme weather, our wildlife are becoming more vulnerable to traffic, and collisions with vehicles are on the rise.

"Last year WIRES received more than 180,000 calls to our rescue line and assisted more than 130,000 native animals. A large portion of the wildlife in our care have come to us due to a vehicle collision, either being struck themselves or left orphaned after their mother was killed.

"It is important for drivers to be prepared when travelling, especially in regional and rural areas or in areas of large-scale development. By taking note of the following steps, you can protect both yourself and our native animals."

1. Note wildlife signs – they are placed on specific roads known to intersect across wildlife territory.
2. Understand the high-risk times for wildlife and be extra vigilant.
3. Pack a rescue kit in your car, a simple cardboard box, towel and gloves are enough to save an animal's life.
4. Safely stop and pouch check – many marsupial joeys survive vehicle collisions when in their mum's protective pouch.

[ENDS]

Worst Drivers & Car Models

- **Male drivers** and those middle aged (between **45-54**, followed closely by 55-64) are most likely to find themselves in a collision with an animal.
- Cars most likely to be involved in an animal collision are:
 - Toyota Landcruiser
 - Toyota Hilux
 - Ford Ranger
 - Toyota Corolla
 - Holden Commodore
- White vehicles, followed by grey and silver are most likely to collide with an animal.



Notes to Editor

The research findings were compiled through a national survey with a representative sample of 1,004 Australians aged 18+ and was conducted by Pure Profile in March 2024 on behalf of AAMI.

Claims data collected from Suncorp Group’s network of brands including AAMI, Suncorp Insurance, GIO, Apia, Shannons, CIL, Vero Insurance, Bingle, Essentials by AAI.

AAMI motor claims data comparing animal collisions from 2023 compared to 2022.

* Data relates to animals we could identify

**[Global Forest Watch](#)



Donate to WIRES to aid in the continuous rescue and rehabilitation of native animals impacted by motor vehicle accidents. [Click here to make a donation.](#)

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Top 5 animal collision hotspots and insights in each state and territory are:

Victoria		New South Wales		Queensland	
Top hotspots	1. Sunbury	Top hotspots	1. Dubbo	Top hotspots	1. Nebo
	2. Gisborne		2. Goulburn		2. Brisbane
	3. Wallan		3. Orange		3. Goondiwindi
	4. Heathcote		4. Yass		4. Townsville
	5. Craigieburn		5. Bungendore		5. Charters Towers
Worst month	September	Worst month	October	Worst month	August
Worst day	Saturday	Worst day	Sunday	Worst day	Friday
Worst time	8pm - 12am	Worst time	4.30 - 8pm (dusk)	Worst time	4.30pm - 8pm (dusk)
Car make and model	Holden Commodore	Car make and model	Toyota Landcruiser	Car make and model	Toyota Landcruiser
South Australia		Western Australia		Tasmania	
Top hotspots	1. Port Augusta	Top hotspots	1. Baldivis	Top hotspots	1. Kingston
	2. Mount Gambier		2. Collie		2. Cambridge
	3. Renmark		3. Carnarvon		3. Hobart
	4. Morgan		4. Toodyay		4. Brighton
	5. Whyalla		5. Albany		5. Launceston
Worst month	September	Worst month	May	Worst month	March
Worst day	Sunday	Worst day	Wednesday	Worst day	Sunday
Worst time	6am - 9.30am	Worst time	4.30 - 8.00pm (dusk)	Worst time	8pm - 12am
Car make and model	Toyota Landcruiser	Car make and model	Toyota Landcruiser	Car make and model	Toyota Corolla
Australian Capital Territory		Northern Territory			
Top hotspots	1. Canberra	Top hotspots	1. Katherine		
	2. Hume		2. Tennant Creek		
	3. Belconnen		3. Adelaide River		
	4. Kambah		4. Alice Springs		
	5. Majura		5. Batchelor		
Worst month	October	Worst month	September		
Worst day	Sunday	Worst day	Friday		
Worst time	12am - 6am	Worst time	4.30pm - 8pm (dusk)		
Car make and model	Toyota Corolla	Car make and model	Toyota Landcruiser		