



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



2019 Western Ringtail Spring Tally

A community Ringtail Possum count

Step 1) Choose your survey site. This is a place where you have seen ringtails before; it may be your own garden or a local park or patch of bush. It must be a specific location and for this reason, we ask that you record ringtails within a defined area, preferably around 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 Oct – 4th Nov):

- Record the maximum number of ringtails seen within the search area on a single evening (within half hour before sunset to 10.00pm).
- 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 = 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, and estimate the time you spent looking for ringtails and the area you covered (e.g. 50m x 50m).
- We suggest you try to survey on two evenings per week, over the four week survey period (eight survey evenings). It is ok to do fewer evenings than this (once a week is fine). If you want to count on more than eight evenings, please complete a second sheet.
- The standard search area is 50 m x 50 m (50 metres = about 70 paces). A smaller or larger site is fine, but please estimate the size of the area being searched. Any ringtails seen outside your defined survey area may be recorded separately in the comments.
- **Important:** You do not need to be looking for ringtails the whole time but please estimate amount of time spent being 'on the lookout' for ringtails during each survey evening! Being 'on the lookout' simply means that you are in the search area and if a ringtail turns up, you are likely to see it. (E.g. 30 minutes spent outside in the garden and an additional one hour spent 'on the lookout' for ringtails.)
- **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'. And please still submit your completed data sheet.

Step 3) Please return completed data sheets by, 18th Nov 2019 to one of the following:

- Email: info@natureconservation.org.au
- By hand: Nature Conservation office; Community Centre, Tunbridge St, Margaret River
- Post: PO Box 1749
Margaret River, WA 6285
- Phone: 9757 2202

Only count an animal if you are sure it is a ringtail!



Photo by Bovd Wvkes

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

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Site Information		
Name of lead observer(s):	Telephone:	Email:
Survey site address (e.g. residential street address or park name and suburb):		
Estimate size of survey site: Standard search area is 50 metres x 50 metres. 50 metres = approx. 70 paces. If the block or reserve is large, select a practical survey site within it and estimate area in m ² .		____ m x ____ m or ____ m ²
Description of survey site: <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban garden <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-rural house-block <input type="checkbox"/> Park/Sports field <input type="checkbox"/> Native bushland Other: _____ Tree species ringtails using: _____ No. trees on your house block: _____		
More location detail eg. GPS location, nearest crossroad, name and position in park/nature reserve		

Survey Data Survey is over four consecutive weeks from early-Oct to early-Nov. We ask that you try to record the number of ringtails visiting your site on two evenings per week (i.e. try for eight surveys).								
	Evening 1	Evening 2	Evening 3	Evening 4	Evening 5	Evening 6	Evening 7	Evening 8
Date (dd/mm/yy)								
Estimate total time spent looking each evening (min)								
Max number of ringtails seen on that evening								
Estimate total number of ringtails present at your site over the 4 week period.					If you didn't see any ringtails, did you see <u>fresh</u> evidence at your site, such as scats, feeding mess or dreys?			
TOTAL _____					Y/N			

Additional Information
Have you seen any dead ringtails this year (inside or outside the survey site)? Write a number next to each relevant cause of death: Road kill:____ Cat:____ Dog:____ Fox:____ Swimming Pool:____ Other: _____ Total:____
Any signs of breeding (females with young) at your site? (Y/N) ____ No. of young seen over survey period: ____
Do you provide food specifically for ringtails? _____ If yes, <input type="checkbox"/> fruit/veg <input type="checkbox"/> oats <input type="checkbox"/> pet food Other: _____
Have you seen ringtails feeding from other sources such as food provided for pets? If yes, what? _____
Other native animals seen during the survey period? E.g. Owls, quenda, bats.
Other comments e.g. weather conditions, location of dead ringtails (attach a separate sheet if you need to):