



Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter carer Michele Phillips with Sunny the lorikeet.

Sheltering hurt animals

A DEVOTED wildlife carer, Michele Phillips doesn't want to see animals in pain.

Yet over the past few months, demand at the Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter, which she runs from her home, has been so high there's been no choice but to euthanase several animals.

She said making the heart-breaking decision to end an animal's life was the hardest thing over many years as a carer. "It's horrible, I hate doing it," she said.

Ms Phillips said this year had been the first time she had been forced to euthanase an animal in care, amid unprecedented numbers of injured animals.

"It's really hard but you have to think what's viable," she said. "You have to think whether (an animal) might take up a lot of time and it might not make it."

On one of her busiest days, Ms Phillips received 22 call-outs to rescue injured possums.

Ms Phillips said the cost involved with running a shelter had forced many people to stop caring for animals. Yet she continued to commit countless hours each week to ensuring the safety of injured animals.

Ms Phillips said she desperately needed a purpose-built aviary for flight birds that come into her care, which may cost thousands.

If you're able to donate to the shelter, phone Michele on 0411 600 591.