

## Springtime suffering

WITH spring in full bloom, the Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter has had an influx of injured animals.

Shelter operator Michele Phillips said she had taken in more than 100 possums since the start of July.

"In the past two weeks I have had over 60 possums come into care as well as magpies, lorikeets, wattlebirds, ducklings and lizards," she said.

"That is a lot considering it's not even the middle of the season."

Ms Phillips said about 90 per cent of wildlife she received had been attacked by cats.

"If people locked their cats up at night it would really reduce the number of injured animals we have," she said.

But Ms Phillips said many people trying to help wildlife often did more harm than good.

"A lot of people see baby birds on the ground and take them to the vets, when they are actually just learning to forage.

"Unless they are injured, they should be left alone. If you do come across an injured animal, keep it warm but don't try to feed it."

To report injured wildlife, visit [sows.org.au](http://sows.org.au)



Michele Phillips feeds a possum at the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter.

Picture: RICHARD SERONG. N15MS502