

**PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM**

**AVOIDING ANIMAL COLLISIONS
QUICK FACTS**

Background

Each year, thousands of collisions occur between motor vehicles and animals. Although bigger animals tend to cause more damage, smaller ones are still quite dangerous.

We've assembled some statistics to highlight the seriousness of animal collisions in Australia, as well as some tips for how to prevent an animal collision yourself.



Vehicle crash statistics involving animals

- **1 in 7** crashes on country roads involve an animal
- Over the past 5 years, **407 crashes** have occurred in Victoria due to animals on the road, **2** of these crashes were fatal, **148** were serious injuries
- In Darwin, **30.43%** of collisions are animal related
- In the ACT animal collisions increased by **84%** from 2009-2010
- **60%** of animal collisions that result in human fatality involve kangaroos and wallabies, the other **40%** are caused by straying livestock and horses



Sources: nrspp.org.au

Strategies to avoid hitting an animal

1. Plan your journey
2. Be sure to look far ahead and scan the side of the road for sign of animal activity
3. Be extra vigilant at dawn and dusk because this is when animals are most active. Where possible avoid driving at these times especially if driving into the sun to reduce the risk of animal strikes.
4. Take note of the environment you are driving in
5. Stay within the speed limit and drive to the conditions
6. Don't use cruise control as this slows reaction time
7. If an animal collision is unavoidable, remain in your lane, as swerving to avoid an animal can often cause a more serious crash. Apply the brakes firmly, and release them just before impact- this will help prevent the vehicle's nose from "scooping" the animal up and over the hood



Source: www.nrspp.org.au