

31 May 2022

## Cooler weather triggers animal collision warning to drivers

As temperatures start to drop across Queensland, RACQ is reminding drivers to be on the lookout for animals seeking food and warmth close to roads.

Club spokesperson Kate Leonard-Jones said insurance data revealed RACQ had received 11,748 motor claims for collisions with animals over the past three years.

“We tend to see these claims spike during the winter months. Last year around 31% of motor claims involving animals happened during June, July, and August,” Ms Leonard-Jones said.

“The majority of these crashes have been in populated areas across south east Queensland, including Greater Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, the south west and central Queensland.

“Colliding with an animal can cause significant damage to your vehicle and not only harm or kill the animal, but potentially put you and your passengers at risk.

“It’s important to be cautious on regional roads where wildlife might be trying to cross or forage on the roadside.”

Ms Leonard-Jones said motorists should be extra cautious when travelling on roads where wildlife could be present.

“If you’re driving at dawn or dusk, you’re more likely to see wildlife because this is when they’re coming in to feed on the side of the road where the grass is often greener,” she said.

“If you can’t avoid driving at these times, watch your speed, drive to the conditions, use high beam where appropriate, and stay vigilant for any wildlife which might move onto the road.

“Never swerve to avoid hitting an animal. It can put you at greater risk of causing a collision with another vehicle or roadside obstacle. If it’s safe, try to brake or pull over, and call for help if your car is damaged.”

RACQ is Queensland’s largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State’s first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of more than 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.

## RACQ motor vehicle insurance claims for animal collisions from April 2019 to April 2022:

Region	Number of claims for animal collisions
South east	3,122
Sunshine Coast	2,167
South west	2,018
Central Queensland (Rockhampton)	1,697
North Queensland (Townsville)	986
Mackay	786
Far north Queensland	543
Gold Coast	429
Total	11,748

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