

2024 Ringtail Tally (7th April – 4th May)

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 April – 4th May):

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 survey at try to do two evenings per week, over the four week survey period (mid April to mid May – 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 May 31, 2024. Our preferred method is electronically – take a photo or scan and email.

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



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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.

Site Information	
Name of lead observer(s):	Telephone:
Email:	
Survey site address (e.g. residential street address or park name and suburb):	
How did you hear about the survey?:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Poster <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook <input type="checkbox"/> Email from GeoCatch <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	
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 mid-April to mid-May. 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, Yes Y/N feeding mess or dreys? Feeding mess			
TOTAL_____								

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? ___No___ If yes, fruit/veg oats 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):

Vegetation on ground suggests activity