

**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:**

- Record the maximum number of ringtails seen within the search area on a single evening.
- *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.
- A single survey is useful, but if you are able to count ringtails on one more than one evening, that would be great.
- *The standard search area is 50 m x 50 m (50 metres = about 70 paces).* Smaller or larger sites are fine, but please estimate the size of the area being searched, including the size of your house block. 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 from 30mins before sunset to 30mins prior to sunrise.* 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. you might spend 30 minutes outside in the garden and an additional hour 'on the lookout' for ringtails – so that's 90 minutes total)
- **If you don't see any ringtails, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 2026 to:**

Hannah Bannister  
On behalf of Oyster Harbour Catchment Group  
Email: [hannah\\_bannister@outlook.com](mailto:hannah_bannister@outlook.com)  
P: 0427 478 882

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



Photo by L.Jackes courtesy City of Busselton

**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.**



# Western Ringtail Tally

OFFICIAL



Department of Parks and Wildlife



<b>Site Information</b>		
<b>Name of lead observer(s):</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Survey site address (e.g. residential street address or park name and suburb):</b>		
<b>Estimate size of survey site:</b> 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 <sup>2</sup> .		____ m x ____ m or ____ m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Description of survey site:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban garden <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-rural house <input type="checkbox"/> Park/Sports field <input type="checkbox"/> Native bushland Other: _____ Tree species ringtails using: _____ Number of trees on your house block: _____		
<b>Pets on property:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Are pets kept indoors? <input type="checkbox"/> Other out-door pets: _____		
<b>More location detail (optional)</b> eg. GPS location, nearest crossroad, name and position in park/nature reserve		

<b>Surveys</b> (you can do as many evenings as you want)			
<b>Date</b> (dd/mm/yy)	<b>Estimate total time spent looking each evening (min)</b>	<b>Max number of ringtails seen on that evening</b>	<b>Comments (e.g. number of young ringtails)</b>

<b>Optional Information</b>
<b>If you didn't see any ringtails, did you see any fresh evidence such as scats feeding mess or dreys? (Y/N)</b>
<b>Have you seen any dead ringtails this year (inside or outside the survey site)?</b> Write a number next to each relevant cause of death: Road kill: ___ Cat: ___ Dog: ___ Fox: ___ Swimming Pool: ___ Other: _____ Total: ___
<b>Any signs of breeding (females with young) at your site? (Y/N) ___ No. of young seen over survey period: ___</b>
<b>Do you provide food specifically for ringtails? ___</b> If yes, <input type="checkbox"/> fruit/veg <input type="checkbox"/> oats <input type="checkbox"/> pet food Other: _____
<b>Have you seen ringtails feeding on other sources such as pet food or fruit trees on property? If yes, what?</b> _____
<b>Other comments e.g. weather conditions, location of dead ringtails, other native animals seen during the survey period? (e.g. Owls, quenda, bats)</b>