

Heatwaves and koalas

Normal behaviour of a wild koala

During periods of hot weather koalas may choose a shady spot on the ground, particularly in urban areas where gardens or lawns have been watered. The ground can be a far cooler place than a tree for koalas during heatwaves. Sometimes koalas will lie sprawled out on the ground in an attempt to cool themselves.

Lending a helping hand during heatwaves

What you can do:

- koalas do drink water, especially in hot weather. You may wish to leave a bowl of cool water nearby for the koala
- monitor the koala's condition and behaviour
- keep pets indoors or secured away from the koala
- inform neighbours of the koala on your property. Seek their co-operation with keeping their pets secure in their own yard
- if the koala is visible to onlookers consider placing a temporary low barrier to screen the koala from potential unwanted attention and stress.

If the koala remains on the ground for longer than 24 hours you may wish to contact your local Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) office during business hours for further advice.

