

Duckling & Cygnet Crossing Safety



**SLOW
DOWN**

If you see ducks, ducklings or wildlife attempting to cross a freeway/road, stay in your car and call for assistance when you can safely do so. Leave it to responders who are better equipped to safely attend the rescue.

While the safety of wildlife on our roads is important, your safety is paramount.

REMAIN ALERT:

- ✓ Slow down and put your hazard lights on.
- ✓ Give them space.
- ✓ They cannot be prevented from crossing.
- ✓ Let them cross.
- ✓ Stay in your vehicle.

Breeding season: June - November

Ducks & swans breed, hatch, and raise their young across winter and spring in WA. Incubation is 25-40 days, depending on the species. Once hatched, ducklings will stay with their parents until they can fly, while cygnets stay with the parents for nine months.

Ducklings & cygnets are on the move

Nesting away from water, they are on the roads to make the trip to their preferred lake, river, pond, or estuary.

Adult ducks may also nest in your backyard or near your swimming pool. Sometimes they may require assistance. Contact the Wildcare Helpline for advice.

STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE AND LET THEM CROSS. It is the safest option for you and them:

- Fatalities and injuries have occurred when people have tried to help them cross.
- Startling the parents could result in them flying off. Young, inexperienced parents won't always come back.
- Ducklings & cygnets in care, raised by humans, have a decreased chance of survival once they are released.
- Predator awareness; sourcing food; and knowing they are a 'duck' or a 'swan' are skills best learnt from parents.

