

Step 1) Choose your survey site. This is a place where you have seen western ringtail possums 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 during each evening you survey over the four week period: Sunday 9th April – Sunday 7th May 2023:

- Record the total 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.
- We suggest you try to survey two evenings per week, over the four week survey period (so that's eight survey evenings). It is ok to do fewer evenings than this. If you want to count on more than eight evenings, please complete a second data sheet.
- *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.* Being 'on the lookout' simply means 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 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 30th May for your chance to win your very own possum drey!

Return data sheets to:

Jacquie Nichol
Leschenault Catchment Council
Email: Scan or send a photo of completed data sheet to jacquie.nichol@leschenaultcc.org.au
Post: Leschenault Catchment Council
7 Oakley Street
Bunbury WA 6230

**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.



Site Information

Name of lead observer(s):

Telephone:

Email:

Survey site address (e.g. residential street address or park name and suburb):

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 m².

_____ m x _____ m

or _____ m²

Description of survey site: Suburban garden Semi-rural house Park/Sports field Native bushland

Tree species ringtails using: _____ Number of trees on your property: _____

Pets on property: Cat Dog Other out-door pets: _____

More location detail (optional) e.g. back/front yard, GPS location, nearest crossroad, name and position in park/nature reserve

Survey Data

Survey is over four consecutive weeks from 9th April to 7th 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.	TOTAL _____							If you didn't see any ringtails, did you see <u>fresh</u> evidence at your site, such as scats, feeding mess or dreys? Y/N

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? _____ If yes, fruit/veg oats pet food Other: _____

Have you seen ringtails feeding on other sources such as pet food or fruit trees on property? If yes, what?

Other comments e.g. weather conditions, location of dead ringtails, other native animals seen during the survey period? (e.g. Owls, quenda, bats)