



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS WHEN TREATING MANGE

How do I treat a wombat with mange?

Cydectin/Moxidectin based products containing 5g/l Moxidectin as the only active ingredient and 150 g/l Hydrocarbon Liquid are the only products that have been approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to treat mange in wombats. These are available as a 'pour on' and are easily applied with a 'pole & scoop' or 'burrow flap'.

What is the recommended dose of Cydectin?

The recommended dose is an amount that will penetrate and be absorbed into the wombat's skin. WPSA have ascertained moderate to severely manged wombats need an **80ml – 100ml dose applied every 5 – 7 days** to eliminate the mange mite. 5 doses are usually adequate to cure the mange but follow up assessment is recommended.

As each wombat will be affected differently a photo can help us to determine the right dose. Sometimes mange is misdiagnosed, so it is important this is clarified before treatment starts and is something the Society can assist with. Send us a photo of the wombat showing its sides and face.

What tools can I use to treat a wombat?



If the wombat is approachable, we suggest treating with a pole and scoop device. Wombats that are easily approached are usually suffering an advanced stage of mange and it is important that you seek expert advice. Apply the dose down the middle of the wombats back which is the healthiest area and where the medication is most easily absorbed into the blood stream (avoid scabs).



Follow up photos are ideal as we can assess the progress of the wombat and adjust the dose accordingly. As the wombat improves it will be harder to approach and this is when treatment can be continued using the burrow flaps.

Directions to make a 'pole and scoop' device are explained in detail later on.

Follow up Treatment



This can be done using a burrow flap at the entrance to the burrow the wombat is using. If you cannot locate an active burrow, look for evidence of a well-worn track maybe under a fence. Place the burrow flap so it can swing freely (back and forth) enough to empty the cup.

How do I identify an active burrow?

Place small sticks or bracken across the entrance to the burrow. This will not be invasive and will be pushed out of the way if a wombat is in residence.





Healing Process

The wombat may look worse before it gets better, this is because the scabs are being scratched off, exposing bare skin and sometimes superficial bleeding can be seen. This usually heals within a couple of days. Products like Cetrigen or Chloromide (pink or purple spray) which are antibacterial and fly repellent can be used and will assist in the healing of the skin and deter flies. These products are readily available from produce stores.



Wombat at start of treatment



After a couple of treatments the scabs start to fall off exposing new skin & sometimes superficial bleeding

What can I do during treatment to help the wombat?

A wombat suffering from mange can become very thirsty so easy access to water is a good idea. Wombats in this weakened state can use a lot of energy trying to access water. A heavy bottomed bowl or container embedded in the ground near where the wombat is grazing, or sleeping is a good idea.





How do I dispose of an infected carcass?

It is important that a mange infested carcass is disposed of immediately (gloves should be worn). The mange mites can live on the body for up to 3 weeks after the wombat dies and this is when the mange is most likely to spread as the mite will be looking for a new host.

The body can be buried deeply, (lime will assist with the decomposition), burnt, or placed in a sealed double layered plastic garbage bag and taken to the local vet for disposal (check with your vet first).



Finally, stay in touch with the Society or the person nominated to support your efforts. We have found areas where so many wombats have mange that a broad treatment program may be necessary. If this is the case, get in contact again.

Any documentation you keep, notes, observations, photographs are invaluable in assisting other wombats.

How can I identify the difference between mange and a wombat attack?



Mange usually appears with scabbing around the wombat's shoulders and sides. Often the face can become crusted 'mask like' and eyes and ears become scabby 'cauliflower' appearance.

As mange progresses hair loss is more noticeable as scabs take over. The last area to lose hair is down the wombat's spine often giving the wombat a 'mohawk appearance'. This is the healthiest area and is where the medication Cydectin/moxidectin is applied. There is usually a red rash on the wombat's underside and inner legs which may not be noticeable on adults but is a good indicator on joeys that can be picked up and examined.

Wombat attack



Wombat attack is usually on the rump and sometimes on the top of the head, neck and down the wombat's back. Wombats defend themselves by bolting down a burrow and blocking the entrance with their rump. These types of wounds are not mange. *A photo sent to your mange treatment group is important so mange can be confirmed, and the correct dose rate prescribed.*

What tools can I use to treat a wombat for mange?

Burrow Flap – A burrow flap can easily be made from a plastic ice cream container lid, or reinforced chicken wire, with small tin, medicine cap or similar inserted. This is where you can be inventive and come up with your own design. For more information on making a burrow flap, please see *Making a Burrow Flap* and *How to Make a Wire Frame to Hold a Burrow Flap* under the Mange & Disease tab of our website www.wombatprotection.org.au/mange-disease

A burrow flap is ideally positioned 30cm above ground level. This height allows the wombat to just duck its' head to activate the burrow flap. Make sure cable ties are tight, to stop the flap sliding sideways.



Pole and Scoop device – An extendable pole or an old broom handle or something similar are ideal. Attach a large plastic scoop, cup, or bottle to one end. You can do this using tape.



What are the other types of burrow flaps?

A burrow flap can be weighted at the bottom with a short stick to stop it blowing in the wind. The stick can also be attached with cable ties. Make sure the stick does not extend beyond the width of the flap.



A flap can also be made from reinforced chicken wire. This type of flap does not blow in the wind and is less obtrusive. However, make sure wire edges are trimmed and bent out of the way so as not to hurt the wombat's face



Where else can I put my wombat flap?

Burrow flaps can be set up on roadside culverts and drains. Wombats grazing on the roadside use these as bolt holes when they are disturbed. If an opening is too wide try blocking the sides with sticks, this will encourage the wombat under the flap. Please make sure the flap can swing back and forth and tighten cable ties to stop the flap from slipping sideways.



Burrow flaps can also be set up under buildings taking care to make sure other entry points are blocked off, that way your furry friend will get their required dosage.



If you have any questions, please email: mange@wombatprotection.org.au

www.wombatprotection.org.au