



In Care wombat joeys with mange

The following are my observations and not necessarily those of WPSA or are they the only way treatment can be given.



Cydetin pour-on Trial

Higher Dose 1ml per kg body weight = 10 times the recommended dose

Plus 4ml to compensate run off

Wombats treated this way have recovered far more quickly

- Joeys with mange deteriorate quicker than adults but also recover more quickly.
- Body condition (weight) improves more rapidly.
- Less stress (less scratching, able to sleep undisturbed)



Identifying mange - signs to look for....



This is mange

Moist red rash on underside, hair matted, dehydrated and malnourished.



Wombat attack

No sign of rash/shiny healthy coat



Scabs on back and rump – this is the same wombat

Mange is often misdiagnosed



- Some carers and vets identify any skin condition in wombats as mange.
- This can lead to being unnecessarily euthanised or wrongly handled and treated.
- Infected wounds (unpleasant odor) not necessarily mange.
- Antibiotics will be needed to clear up infection .
- Orphaned joeys like this need ongoing nourishment/protection and usually respond well.

Pouched or “at heel” young Joeys 3 – 5kgs



Correct diagnosis

- Scabbing around eyes, face, neck and shoulders, red rash on underside.
- Can easily be treated with Cydectin pour-on once a week. (*APVMA approved*)
- Infected wounds may need antibiotics (*superficial wounds can be sprayed with Chloromide/Cetrigen*)
- Do not bath joeys with mange. Excessive moisture can cause infection to spread. The joey will scratch off scabs by itself when they are ready to come away.
- Sometimes joeys of this size may also have attack wounds .If there is any infection (bad smell) antibiotics may be needed.



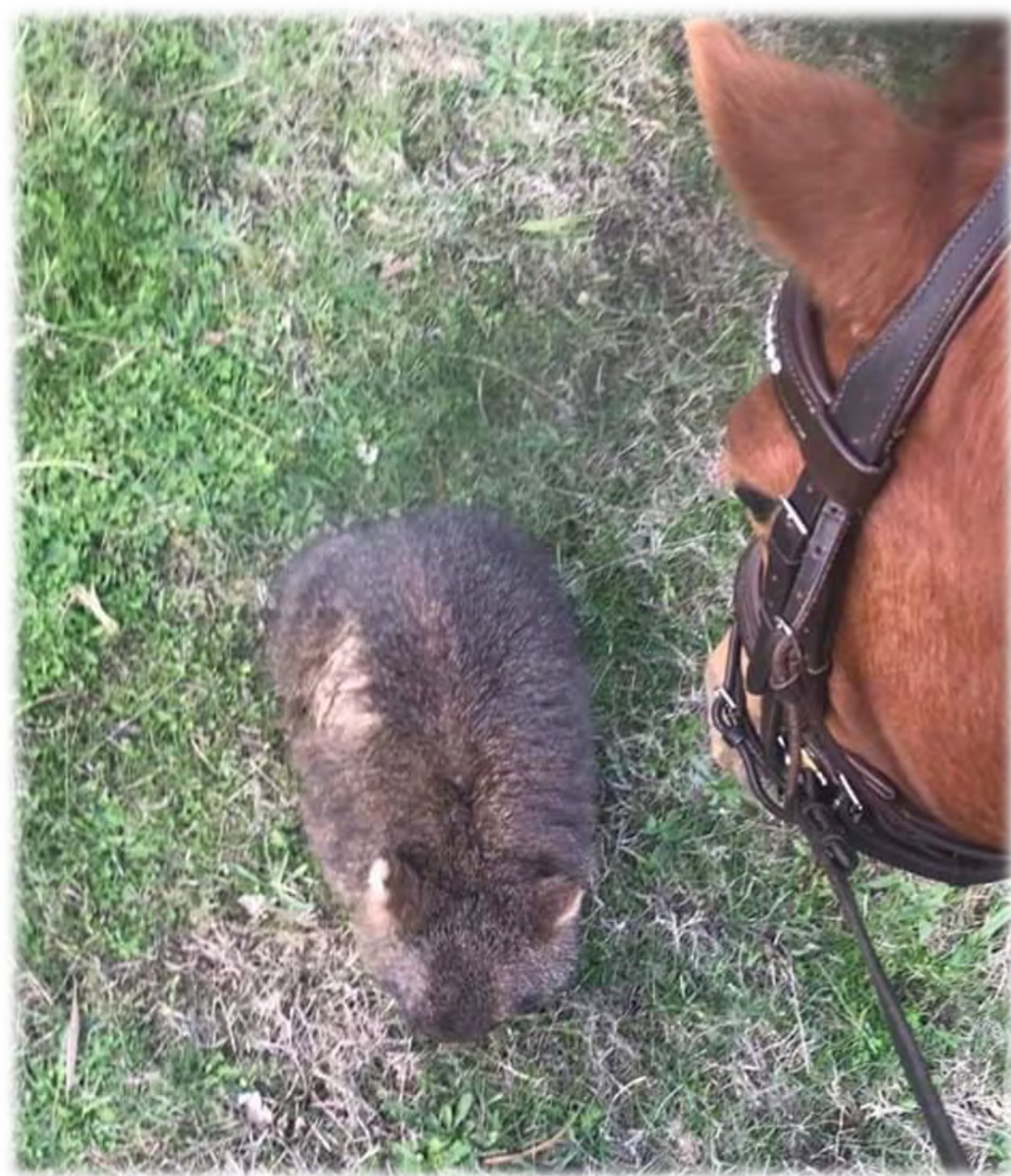
- Strict quarantine should be observed
- Plenty of fluids (rehydration)
- Regular change of bedding
- **Contamination** - If the wombat has been housed with other joeys they will all need to be treated.



Diagnosing mange in free living joeys 8–12 kgs approximately

- Sometimes hard to diagnose from a distance.
- Ask for details – how long has it been observed?
is it approachable?
has it been seen with an adult?
- The wombat may look well furred. Observe their stance and behaviour.
- If on their own and approachable it will need to come in to care.

- Very sick wombat joeys are usually easy to catch.
- Impaired vision and hearing means they are often unaware of their surroundings.
- Stress - don't chase or harass a joey (*stress will kill*). Mange is a slow killer and sometimes it is better to wait and try the rescue again the next day.





- Never catch a joey if it is with mum. It can be treated with a pole and scoop device.

Case Study: Robbie

Quick examination on arrival



Right eye sealed shut



Thick crusty scabs under hair



Moist red rash on underside causing irritation

Keep clear records



Weight: 11.1 kgs
- weigh wombat so dose rate can be decided

Dose: 15ml

Date treated: 13.5.19
- keep track of doses given

Additional medication: Chloromide on R. shoulder wound.

Observations: Right eye sealed shut, right hand side of body more severely infested.



Housing an in-care joey or sub adult.



- Enclosure – secure, away from domestic noises & smells.
- Away from other wombats. Even the sounds of other wombats can be intimidating.
- Plenty of straw or hay for bedding.
- Large wooden box with lid or 44 gallon drum, plastic garbage bin or similar to sleep in.
- Logs to scratch on. Even a few things to play with.

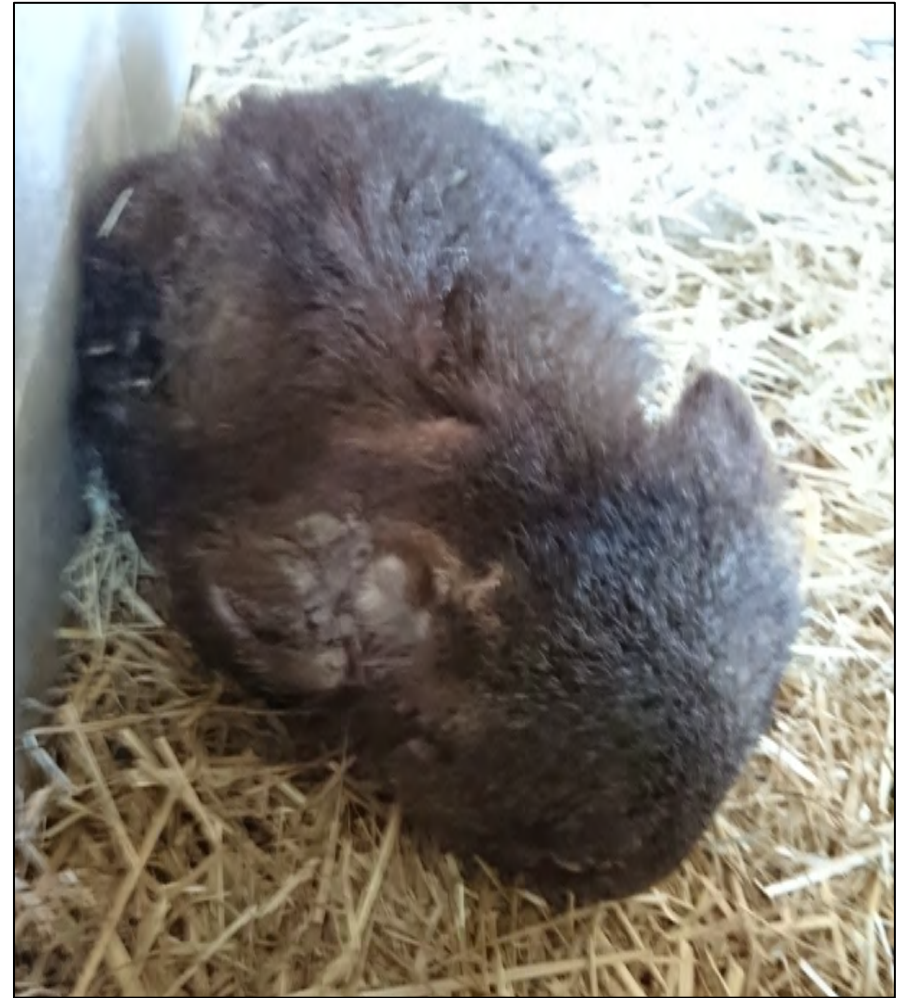
- Offer plenty of fresh grass.
- Make sure water is available.
- Grass pellets (*Calm Performer Pony Pellets*)
- Minimal handling while in care. *Don't impede natural instincts.*

Robbie was never handled after his initial examination, he managed to scratch off all scabs with the aid of logs supplied.

Minimal handling aids a better outcome.



10 days into treatment - 2 doses given at this stage



Robbie was still feeling unwell at this stage as he was very malnourished.

17 days into treatment- 3 doses given



A week later and he is starting to feel so much better.

23 days into treatment – 4 doses given at this stage



Note scab on right eye & ear starting to lift.



Right and left sides show different stages of healing.



29 days into treatment — 5 doses given



“I feel much better now I can see.”



33 days into treatment — 6 doses given



Eyes clear, both sides nearly free of scabs.

40 days into treatment
- 7 doses given



47 days into treatment —8 doses at this stage, this is his last dose as Robbie has stopped scratching and all his scabs have been removed.



Notice new hair growth around shoulders, body condition improving

6.8.19 (month later)

Last scab on his face which was not evident has been removed.





15.8. 2019
3 months after
coming into care



Treating in the wild

- Cannot be assured of regular treatment.
- Aren't protected from harsh weather conditions.
- Can't be assured of a plentiful food supply.



So, it is imperative we are giving an appropriate dose to ensure a speedy recovery.



Start of treatment and three months later cured.






Robbie was released where he was found on the verge of a council reserve, adjacent to farmland. He was given a final dose of Cydectin on release and a burrow flap program has been started in the immediate vicinity.



- Cydectin is the safest and best product to date to treat mange in wombats. *(APVMA approved)*
- Appropriate dose needs to be given. *(check if unsure)*
- Mange mites need to be eradicated as quickly as possible. *Gives the wombat a better chance of recovery/ regains condition and reverts to normal behaviour.*

Facts Check

A photograph of a forest landscape. In the foreground, there are large, light-colored rocks and tall, thin grasses. The ground is covered with a layer of brown pine needles. In the background, there are several tall, thin trees with light-colored bark, possibly eucalyptus. The scene is lit with bright, natural light, creating a warm atmosphere. A white circular text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Working
together we
can make a
difference.