



# Wombat Case 1 – Mr Millpost

- 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009
- We Received a phone call from our neighbour regarding a wombat with mange on their property.
- Arrived to a wombat who had severe mange with opened wounds, maggots, emaciated and was "smelly".
- Assessed to the best of my ability at the time, and decided euthanasia was the best option.

# The aim was to kill the mites, not to save the wombat.

- The aim was now to kill as many mites as possible before he either died in a burrow or until Ray, my husband, arrived home to euthanise.
- Cydectin was poured directly from the bottle along the wombat's back, a minimum of 100 mL was applied.
- Ray went out the next few days to euthanize but could not find the wombat.
- We assumed the wombat had died.

# Treatment

- 9 days later, we decided to set up a treatment program in the area by erecting flaps along the 1 km long creek and search for other wombats with mange.
- We found Mr. Millpost (wombat) drinking from the creek, he was more alert and energetic, no maggots and much of the scabs had fallen off.
- Started treatment approximately every 7 days with minimum 30 mL per dose via pole and scoop.

After 7 weeks





After 14 weeks



# 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – last dose

- He had 18 confirmed pour-on doses over 5 months, approximately 30 mL/dose with the initial dose at 100 mL.
- He was regularly seen healthy for another two years by both us and our neighbour.
- We continued treatment via flaps along the creek intensively for two years, and follow up treatment for another year.
- During this time we targeted individual wombats with mange using pole and scoop.
- Neighbour reported back to us after three years of treatment: "It's the first time in 20 years they could not see any wombats with mange."
- 10 years later and we are still regularly monitoring that area. Occasionally, a wombat with mange turns up and the wombat is immediately targeted for treatment.
- We are covering approximately 1,000 acres actively searching any signs of mange.



# Cover the area effectively

We use an electric golf buggy to cover a large area. Pole on the roof, carry basket at the back and a spotlight connected to the battery.





# When to Treat or when to Euthanise

**I was wrong to assume the wombat needed to be euthanised. The decision to euthanise should not be decided because:**

- The wombat smells, therefore assuming it has secondary infection.
- The wombat has maggots.
- Open wounds
- Scabs covering eyes and ears and appearing to be blind and deaf.
- Poor condition
- Time of the year
- Availability of food
- Possibility of further treatment

**These factors are not reasons a wombat cannot make a full recovery.**

# Consider

- Reality is that, sadly very few of the wombats in the field will receive a deserved Veterinary assessment.
- No blood or urine are collected for testing and therefore it's not possible for anyone of us carers/property owners/member of public to make a fair judgement.
- We have found that severely manged wombats can make a full recovery while less affected wombats can die during treatment due to environmental factors such as a cold snap/snow/or continuous rain.
- To "simply" euthanise is a band-aid fix that will resolve the issue for the individual wombat and the person choosing not to treat, but will not help all the others in the surrounding area.

## Wombat 2 – too long duration

This wombat received too small a dose to kill **ALL** the mites and therefore took nearly four years to recover.

- 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 – Each dose was 20-30 mL direct application via pole and scoop.
- October 2010 – 3 doses
- November 2010 – 3 doses
- 5 months without treatment
- April 2011 – 2 doses
- May 2011 – 1 dose
- June 2011 – 1 dose
- August 2011 – 3 doses
- September 2011 – 4 doses
- October 2011 – 2 doses

# Continued treatment

- 3 Months without treatment
- February 2012 – 5 doses
- March 2012 – 4 doses
- April 2012 – 3 doses
- May 2012 – 2 doses
- June 2012 – 1 dose
- July 2012 – 2 doses
- August 2012 – 2 doses
- September 2012 – 2 doses



22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 – 2 years later



Mange visible on back legs and side of cheek and neck.

**She still has LIVE mites on her.**

# Moxidectin vs Ivermectin

- October 2012 – 2 doses
- November 2012 – 0 doses
- December Xmas day – 1 dose
- Jan – March – 4 doses (one dose per month)
- At this point we were concerned about mites building resistant to moxidectin and therefore swapped to Ivermectin.
- April to July 2013 Ivermectin – 10 doses of 20-30 mL per dose over four months. (no change)

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 – nearly three years since first dose



# Intensified Treatment – Increased dose amount

## From August 2013 to May 2014

- 10 Months - 31 doses
- Still not mange free

## Increased dose amount:

### May to September 2014

- 5 Months 16 doses of 80 mL/dose
- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – MANGE FREE
- 4 years of treatment



Nine years after initial dose (July 2019)



# Benefits of Larger doses of Cydectin

- Kill all mites faster.
- Decrease the duration of treatment time
- Better chance to apply all treatment before the wombat “disappears”.
- The wombat is “sick” for a shorter duration and will therefore be able to put on weight faster.
- Less risk of dying during extreme weather events.
- Fur will grow back faster and therefore less risk of hypothermia.
- More likely people will complete treatment.
- Less likely the mites will build up resistance to the Moxidectin.
- Endless advantages

# Wombat 3

- Day 1 - First dose of 100 mL (11<sup>th</sup> May 2018)
- Day 4 - Second dose of 100 mL (15<sup>th</sup> May 2018)
- Day 7 - Third dose of 100 mL (18<sup>th</sup> May 2018)
- 300 mL within the first week over three doses.

# Dose 3





# Day 20 – Fourth Dose of 100 mL 30-5-18





Day 25 – fifth dose of 100 mL 4-6-18





**Day 30 - 6<sup>th</sup> dose but only 50 mL 9<sup>th</sup> June**



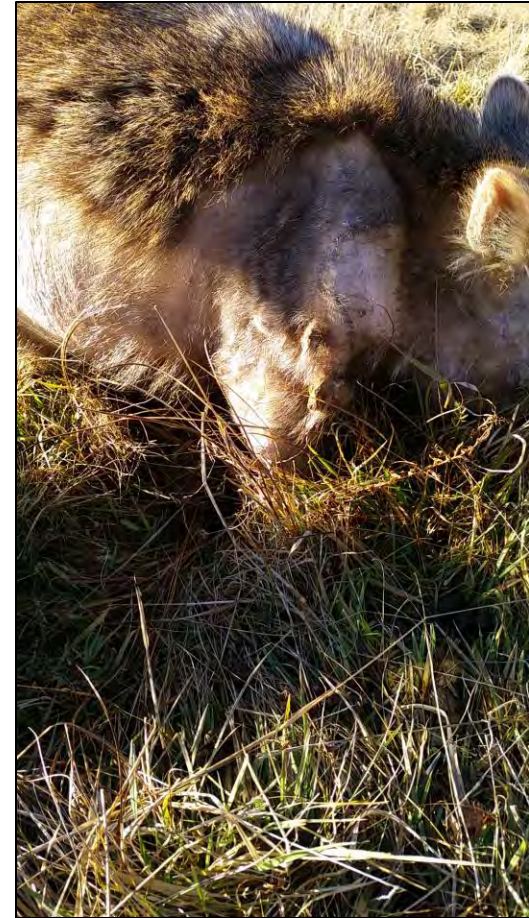


# Day 38 No Treatment 17<sup>TH</sup> June





7 weeks after first dose and 3 weeks since last dose  
NO TREATMENT



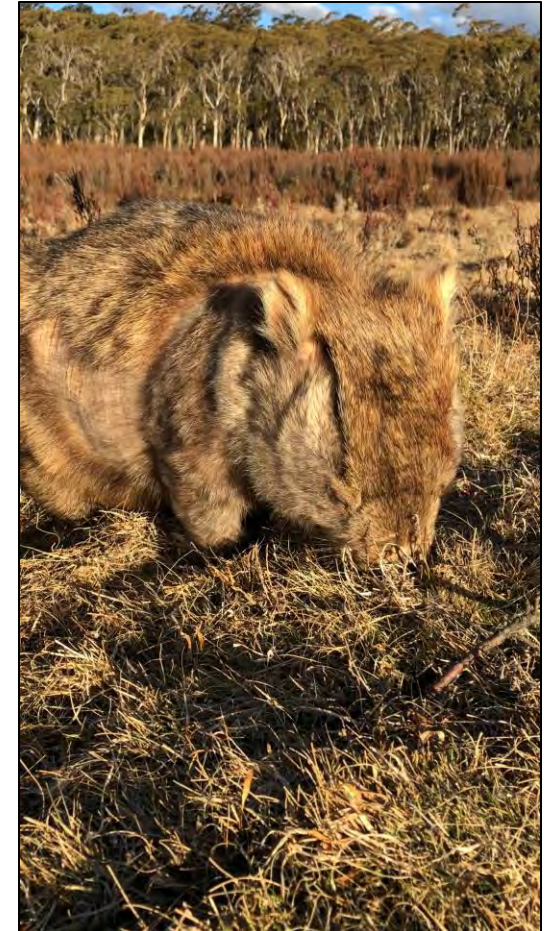


# 3 months from first dose NO TREATMENT





# 4 months after first dose NO TREATMENT





# 5 months from first dose NO TREATMENT





6 ½ months from first dose. Is still seen regularly now over a year later, full body weight and doing well.





# Wombat 4 – day 1 dose 100mL





Day 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> dose 100 mL





Day 13 – 3<sup>rd</sup> dose 100 mL





Day 18 – 4<sup>th</sup> dose 100 mL





Day 31 – 5<sup>th</sup> dose 100 mL  
**No further treatment**





# One Year Later

## Line of fur growth still visible

