

Step 1) Choose your survey site. This is a place where you have seen ringtails 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 each evening at least twice a week over the four week survey period (18th April to 18th May):

- Record the maximum number of ringtails seen within the search area on a single evening (within half hour before sunset to 10.00pm).
- 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, and estimate the time you spent looking for ringtails and the area you covered (e.g. 50m x 50m).
- We suggest you survey or try to do two evenings per week, over the four week survey period (mid April to mid May – eight survey evenings). It is ok to do fewer evenings than this (once a week is fine). If you want to count on more than eight evenings, please complete a second sheet.
- The standard search area is 50 m x 50 m (50 metres = about 70 paces). A smaller or larger site is fine, but please estimate the size of the area being searched. 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 that you are in the search area and if a ringtail turns up, you are likely to see it. (E.g. 30 minutes spent outside in the garden and an additional one hour spent 'on the lookout' for ringtails.)
- **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 May 31st, 2016 to one of the following:

For Busselton / Dunsborough area:

- Bree Brown (Breanne.Brown@water.wa.gov.au)
- Phone 97810111
- PO Box 269
Busselton WA 6280

For Mandurah area:

- John Hudson (jh30259@gmail.com)
- 0427 017 131
or
- Geoff Barrett (Geoff.Barrett@dpaw.wa.gov.au)

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

