

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU
FIND AN ANIMAL
WHICH HAS BEEN
INVOLVED IN A ROAD
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT**



If you find an animal which you suspect has been involved in a road traffic accident then always contact your local rescue centre for help. Even if there are no external injuries, there is always the possibility of internal injuries which can be fatal.

Never put yourself in danger of oncoming vehicles and only approach an animal on the road or roadside if it is safe to do.

If possible remove the animal from the road and in to a safe place out of the way of further damage or in to a box or carrier - if available - and call a rescue centre for advice.

**East Sussex Wildlife Rescue and
Ambulance Service**

24 Hour Rescue Line: 07815078234

For non emergency information or advice
call: 01825 873003

Or email:

trevor@eastsussexwras.org.uk



**East Sussex WRAS is funded by
donations and fundraising event.**

If you can make a donation please call

01825-873003

10am - 5pm 7 days a week.

Registered Charity 1108880

**East Sussex WRAS, PO Box 2148, Seaford,
East Sussex, BN25 9DE**

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**ROAD TRAFFIC
ACCIDENTS**



Information on why they occur and
what you can do to prevent them
happening

WHY DO ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS HAPPEN?

Road traffic accidents are particularly common during the mating season (spring) when males cross more roads in order to find females.

Similarly, when young animals are leaving their parents in Summer/Autumn they are inexperienced and unaware of the dangers of roads when searching for their own territories and are often involved in collisions. Ducks are regularly hit during the process of guiding their ducklings to water for the first time.

Rodents are drawn to road verges by the numerous insects, road kill and litter which are commonly found there. The presence of rodents in turn attracts birds of prey, particularly Barn owls which hover low and slowly to catch prey and are then hit by vehicles.

Other birds are caught out when eating grit from the roads or may be drawn in to the slip streams of speeding vehicles and injured.

For some animals such as deer and hedgehogs, their defence strategy does nothing to protect them from oncoming vehicles. Deer adopt the freeze method, whilst hedgehogs roll up in to a ball with only their spikes to protect them—neither of which will prevent injury from cars.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



- Obey speed limits
- Be aware of wildlife crossing signs! If you see one, check your speed and stay alert
- Be on particular alert at dawn and dusk when animals are more likely to cross, as well as breeding season during Spring/summer months when animals are in search of mates or new territory
- Do not litter along road verges as this attracts small rodents and in turn predators of these to the roadside
- Be prepared to stop but try not to swerve to avoid animals and put yourself in danger of colliding with an oncoming vehicle
- If you have to slow down or stop, use your hazard lights to make other drivers aware

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT STATISTICS

- A MINIMUM of 20,000 hedgehogs per year are killed on the roads according to the Bristol Research Unit
- 10 MILLION birds are killed or injured on the roads each year
- Road traffic accidents are responsible for just under HALF of Barn owl deaths within the last decade
- AT LEAST 100,000 foxes are hit by cars each year and it is the most common cause of death in urban fox populations
- HALF of badger deaths are the result of a collision with a vehicle
- Deer are involved in around 74,000 accidents per year in Britain according to the Deer Vehicle Collisions Project

