

Wildlife

Photo: Kerry Trapnell

Cape York has a wonderful diversity of native animals and birdlife not found anywhere else on Earth. All native wildlife is protected, no matter where it is located.

KEEP YOUR FOOD SEALED

Human-produced food causes health problems for native animals. Feeding animals also teaches them not to fear humans, so they become more vulnerable, and a nuisance to other travellers.

RINSE ALL RECYCLABLE BOTTLES AND PLASTIC CONTAINERS

Smells coming from leftover food or drink in containers will attract animals.

CRUSH ALL DRINK CANS

Some animals may try to get into an uncrushed can. They can easily be injured, or get stuck in the can.

REMEMBER THAT TREES AND DEAD BRANCHES ARE SOMEONE'S HOME

Even dead branches can be a home or shelter for small animals.

LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME

Feral animals endanger Cape York's native wildlife. Domestic pets that are lost in the bush become yet another danger to local creatures. Feral pigs are the major pest species on the Cape. Feral cats, horses and cane toads are also significant pest species.

If you do bring your pets, make sure they have name tags with a phone number in case they get lost. Don't rely on microchips for identification – chip readers may not be available in remote areas.

Keep pets on a leash at all times. Stay with your pet when you feed it. Don't leave animal food exposed or unattended.

DISPOSE OF FOOD SCRAPS RESPONSIBLY

Even biodegradable foods like fruit scraps should be disposed of responsibly. Do not throw them out of your vehicle. This encourages animals to wander onto roads, increasing risks to those animals, drivers and other road users.

REPORT INJURED ANIMALS

If you see an injured animal, including turtles, call 1300 ANIMAL (1 300 264 625). This number operates anywhere in Australia, connecting you with local wildlife rescuers and carers.

If you don't have phone signal or a two-way radio at the time, you could make a note of the location and report the animal as soon as you can, by phone or in person.

