What to do if you find a long-necked turtle in need

How to HANDLE a turtle: When *handling* turtles, be prepared for them to squirm strongly - take care not to drop them. Use both hands. If you are nervous, use a small towel. The turtle will not bite, but may lightly scratch you with its claws as it tries to escape your grasp.
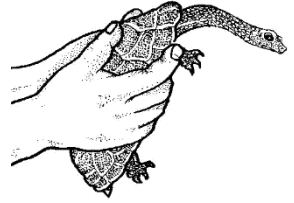
from *Caring for Australian Wildlife*

If you find an INJURED turtle:

- **Please do not put the animal in water.**
- Gently place the turtle on a damp towel in a secure container.
- Cover the turtle with a damp hand towel (reduces stress & flies).
- Place the container somewhere dark, quiet and cool (under 26°C).
- Call the **Turtle *Oblonga* Network** immediately. We provide step-by-step advice.

If you find a turtle in a SALTWATER environment: Call the **Turtle *Oblonga* Network** immediately. Oblong (long neck) turtles are **freshwater turtles**, but are sometimes washed through the drains onto our beaches. they will need to be rescued and taken into care.

If you find a LOST / WANDERING turtle: Generally, there's a lake or wetland nearby. If the turtle appears uninjured, alert and healthy, you can return it to your nearest permanent water body. If you're unsure about where to release, or are concerned the turtle is unwell, please call the **Turtle *Oblonga* Network** for advice.

If you find a turtle CROSSING THE ROAD: If safe to do so, please carry the turtle in the direction it was heading (or they will recross the road once you have gone!).

If you find a NESTING turtle: Please guard her until she's finished laying (15 - 30 minutes), and then carry her back to the nearby lake.

If you find turtle EGGS: Please leave the turtle eggs undisturbed and call the **Turtle *Oblonga* Network,** which has the expertise and facilities to relocate and incubate the eggs (if necessary). The Network can advise on protecting any turtle nests found in your garden.

If you find a HATCHLING turtle: Please pick the hatchling up and place it in fringing vegetation in the nearest suitable water body. If the hatchling appears to be dead, ill, or injured, or if you have any concerns at all about the hatchling, please don't hesitate to call us for rescue and/or advice.

If you find a DEAD turtle: Please call the **Turtle *Oblonga* Network**. If the turtle was a pregnant female, a vet can retrieve the eggs and we will incubate the eggs and release any hatchlings. And, it might sound silly, but it can be very hard to determine if a turtle is dead - 'dead' hatchlings have been known to revive and go on to thrive!

Emergency phone numbers (please don't text)

Turtle *Oblonga* Network: For help, rescue and advice
0424 727 411 East Metro   0424 727 624 South Metro
0414 476 867 North Metro
0428 984 445 Albany   0437 910 054 Busselton
If, for any reason, the Turtle Oblonga number in your area doesn't answer, please call one of the other numbers
There is no fee for our rescue services

For sick, injured or orphaned wildlife and to report suspicious, malicious or illegal wildlife activity including poaching and hunting
7-day Statewide *Wildcare Helpline*: 9474 9055

DONATIONS: We are a registered not-for-profit charity. Our Network is made up of volunteers; we rely on sporadic grants, fundraising, donations and, mostly, our household budgets. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation toward our work, donations may be paid via *Give Now*. All donations are gratefully received

http://www.givenow.com.au/turtleoblonganetwork

If you would like to contribute hands-on toward our work, please take the time to look at our website which includes a downloadable membership application**.**

www.turtleoblonganetwork.org.au
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The **Network's** services include:
- Rescue and rehabilitation of long necked, oblong turtles;
- Workshops and training for wildlife professionals
- Advisory and education services for the community, government and private sector