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WILDLIFE SERIES
OVERVIEW

Singapore Wildlife

30 wild animals you may meet, and what to do.
Most bite only if cornered or handled.

1. **Stay calm, step back**
   3 m, 5 m or 10 m by danger level. Can't name it? 10 m.
2. **Keep children and pets away**
   Dogs on a short lead.
3. **Don't touch, feed, corner or chase**
   Leave it a clear way out.
4. **Call or WhatsApp ESC with a photo**
   Zoom in from where you are.

Animal indoors?

Get everyone out, pets too. Close the door and call ESC. Bat or bird? Lights and fans off, windows open, inner doors shut. Let it find its way out.

Never touch, feed, catch or kill wildlife.

Bitten by a snake? Call 995.

CALL OR WHATSAPP
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GET TO KNOW THEM

Wildlife around us

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30 wild animals in this guide, in 5 groups.
Singapore has many more.

14	5	3	4	4
Snakes	Mammals	Lizards	Bats	Birds



Illustration: otters live along city canals



Illustration: monitors visit pool decks

Why do they come into estates?

Food
Fruit trees, open bins, pet food, rats.

Water
Drains, canals, ponds and pools.

Shelter
Roofs, drains, palms and dense plants.

Forest nearby
Estates near forest and parks get more visits.

Most are just passing through

Give them room and a way out. Most move on if left alone. Keep them wild: never feed them.

How to use this booklet

Page 3: danger levels at a glance
Pages 4 to 9: meet the animals
Pages 10 to 15: what to do, first aid, when to call

How dangerous is it?

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Every animal gets a danger level and a safe distance. Images are illustrations.

DANGEROUS

Venomous snakes and wild boar. Keep 10 m or more.


Spitting cobra


King cobra


Wagler's pit viper


Shore pit viper


Banded krait


Coral snake


Wild boar

KEEP CLEAR

May bite or scratch. Keep 5 m.


Long-tailed macaque


Smooth-coated otter

Mothers with young: give extra room. Never feed them.

GIVE SPACE

May bite if cornered or handled. Crows may swoop. Give it 3 m.


Python


Wolf snake


Paradise tree snake


Dog-faced water snake


Whip snake


Painted bronze-back


Striped bronze-back


Water monitor


Clouded monitor


Dog-faced fruit bat


Cave nectar bat


Yellow house bat


Tomb bat


House crow

HARMLESS

Leave it be.


Blind snake


Sumatran palm civet *(Paradoxurus musangus)*


Banded langur


Change-able lizard


Feral pigeon


Javan myna


Common myna

Can't name it? Keep 10 m.

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Venomous: clear the area

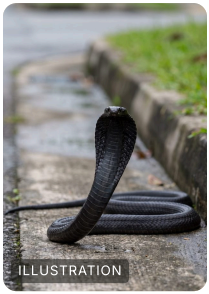
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Six venomous snakes. Keep 10 m or more. Bitten? Call 995.

DANGEROUS

Equatorial spitting cobra

Naja sumatrana



Spot it: glossy black, spreads a hood

Danger: spits venom at the eyes

Where: gardens, parks, drains

DANGEROUS

King cobra

Ophiophagus bungarus



Size: large adults 3 to 4 m

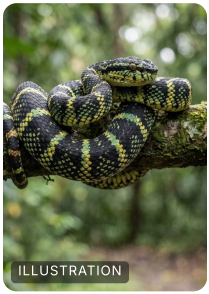
Spot it: olive-brown, pale throat; some have pale bands

Where: rare; forest and forest edges

DANGEROUS

Wagler's pit viper

Tropidolaemus wagleri



Spot it: wide triangular head; female black and yellow, male green

Where: shrubs near forest; sits still

DANGEROUS

Shore pit viper

Trimeresurus purpureomaculatus



Size: up to about 1 m

Spot it: thick body, triangular head

Where: mangroves and coast

DANGEROUS

Banded krait

Bungarus fasciatus



Size: 1 to 1.8 m

Spot it: black and yellow rings all round

Where: mangroves and coast; out at night

DANGEROUS

Banded Malayan coral snake

Calliophis intestinalis



Size: up to 50 cm, pencil-thin

Spot it: red-orange back stripe, red tail

Where: leaf litter in leafy gardens

Bite or venom in the eyes? Call 995. First aid on page 14.

Snakes: give them space

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Give them 3 m. Like any snake, they may bite if caught or cornered. Big pythons bite and squeeze.

GIVE SPACE

Reticulated python

Malayopython reticulatus

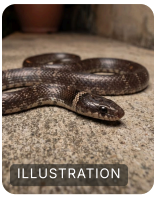


Danger: no venom; bites and squeezes
Spot it: often 2 to 4 m; black, gold, grey net
Where: drains, canals, bin centres

GIVE SPACE

Common wolf snake

Lycodon capucinus

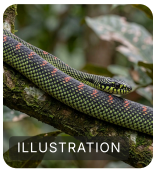


Size: 40 to 60 cm
Spot it: brown, pale speckles, pale collar
Where: often indoors at night

GIVE SPACE

Paradise tree snake

Chrysopelea paradisi



Size: about 1 m
Spot it: black, green-yellow flecks, red spots
Where: trees, walls, roofs

GIVE SPACE

Dog-faced water snake

Cerberus schneiderii



Size: up to about 1 m
Spot it: grey-brown, black stripe through eye
Where: tidal canals, drains, mangroves

GIVE SPACE

Oriental whip snake

Ahaetulla prasina



Size: 1 to 1.5 m, pencil-thin
Spot it: bright green, long pointed snout
Where: hedges and trees

GIVE SPACE

Painted bronzeback

Dendrelaphis pictus



Size: about 1 m, slender
Spot it: bronze back, cream side stripe
Where: hedges, gardens, condo grounds

Pets

Pythons can take cats and small dogs. Cats and small pets in at night.

GIVE SPACE

Striped bronzeback

Dendrelaphis caudolineatus



Size: up to 1.5 m, slender
Spot it: thick black side stripes
Where: hedges, scrub, park edges

HARMLESS · LEAVE IT BE

Brahminy blind snake

HARMLESS

Indotyphlops braminus



Size: up to 20 cm
Spot it: tiny, shiny, dark; dot eyes
Where: flowerpots, soil, after rain

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Mammals

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DANGEROUS

Wild boar

Sus scrofa



Size: up to 1.5 m, 100 kg

Danger: may charge if cornered or startled

Where: forest and estates beside it

KEEP CLEAR

Long-tailed macaque

Macaca fascicularis



Danger: bites if cornered or fed

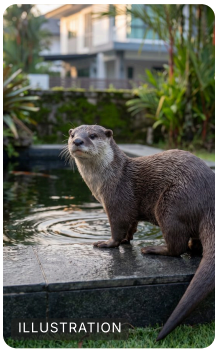
Spot it: grey-brown, pale eyelids, long tail

Where: forest edges, parks, nearby estates

KEEP CLEAR

Smooth-coated otter

Lutrogale perspicillata



Danger: may bite if startled or near pups

Spot it: sleek brown fur, thick tail

Where: canals, reservoirs, coasts, ponds

HARMLESS

Sumatran palm civet

Paradoxurus musangus



Size: about a house cat

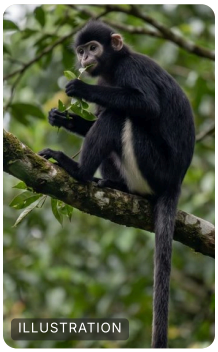
Spot it: black face mask, long dark tail

Where: trees, cables, roofs; out at night

HARMLESS

Raffles' banded langur

Presbytis femoralis



Spot it: black, white belly stripe, pale eye-rings

Where: high in central forest trees

Rare: about 80 in Singapore

Mothers with young?

Give them extra room. Dogs on a short lead near boar and otters.

Monkeys about?

Hide food and plastic bags. Don't stare or run. Grabbed a bag? Let it go.

Lizards

GIVE SPACE



Malayan water monitor

Varanus salvator

Size: most under 2 m; up to 3 m

Spot it: dark, small pale spots, flat tail

Where: canals, ponds, pools

GIVE SPACE



Clouded monitor

Varanus nebulosus

Size: up to about 1.5 m

Spot it: grey-brown, fine yellow speckles

Where: forest and wooded parks

HARMLESS



Changeable lizard

Calotes versicolor

Size: up to 37 cm, mostly tail

Spot it: spiky; breeding males have orange-red heads

Where: gardens, hedges, fences

Monitor in a drain, pool or home?

Drain or canal: it lives there. Leave it be.

Pool: everyone out. Keep the steps clear so it can climb out. Don't hook it out with a pool net.

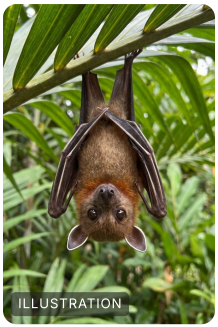
Home: get everyone out, close inner doors, call ESC.

Never corner it or grab its tail.

Bats

Bats don't attack people. Any bat bites if picked up.

GIVE SPACE



Lesser dog-faced fruit bat

Cynopterus brachyotis

Size: palm-sized
Spot it: dog-like face, big eyes
Where: palms, trees, porches

GIVE SPACE



Cave nectar bat

Eonycteris spelaea

Size: up to about 60 g
Spot it: grey-brown, long narrow snout
Where: under flyovers near forest

GIVE SPACE

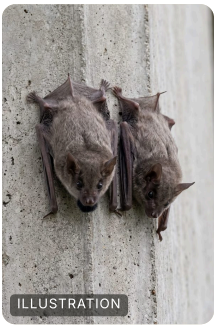


Lesser Asiatic yellow house bat

Scotophilus kuhlii

Size: up to about 22 g
Spot it: brown back, yellowish belly
Where: roof spaces and attics

GIVE SPACE



Black-bearded tomb bat

Taphozous melanopogon

Size: slim, long narrow wings
Spot it: grey-brown, pointed face, big eyes
Where: walls and rock faces

Bat indoors?

Lights and fans off. Open the windows, close inner doors. Take children and pets out. Won't leave? Call ESC.

Bats roosting at home?

In a palm, eaves or porch: leave them be. Most move on in time. In a roof gap: have it checked before sealing.

Never touch a bat.

Not even with a cloth. Bat on the ground? Keep 3 m and call ESC.

Birds

Pigeons and mynas don't bite or attack people. House crows may swoop near their nests.

GIVE SPACE

House crow

Corvus splendens



Size: 40 to 43 cm

Spot it: black, grey neck collar

Where: estates, hawker and bin centres

HARMLESS

Feral pigeon

Columba livia



Size: 30 to 35 cm

Spot it: blue-grey, shiny green and purple neck

Where: ledges, void decks, hawker centres

HARMLESS

Javan myna

Acridotheres javanicus



Size: 21 to 25 cm

Spot it: dark grey, yellow bill, forehead tuft

Where: estates, hawker centres, roadsides

HARMLESS

Common myna

Acridotheres tristis



Size: 23 to 27 cm

Spot it: brown, black head, yellow eye patch

Where: fields, parks, grassy edges

Crow swooping?

There's a nest nearby. Keep your distance and take another path. Tell your management.

Droppings?

- ✓ Wet them first
- ✓ Wear gloves and a mask
- ✗ Never dry-sweep or vacuum droppings
- ✗ Big, dry build-up? Don't clean it yourself

STAY CALM

Met an animal? What to do

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Outdoors

1. **Step back** 3, 5 or 10 m, by danger level.
2. **Keep children and pets back.**
3. **Leave it a clear way out.**
4. **One person watches.** Call or WhatsApp ESC. Tell the guardhouse.

No need to call for a monitor in a drain or canal, bats roosting in a palm, or pigeons and mynas. Leave them be.

Indoors: snake, monkey or monitor

1. **Don't corner it** or block its way out.
2. **Get everyone out,** pets too. Close the door.
3. **Call or WhatsApp ESC.**
4. **Watch the door** from outside.

Bat or bird? Lights and fans off, windows open. See page 11.

DANGEROUS	KEEP CLEAR	GIVE SPACE	HARMLESS
10 m or more, two car lengths	5 m, one car length	3 m, three big steps	leave it be

Never

- Touch, catch or kill it
- Feed it
- Chase, hit, hose or throw things at it
- Go close for a photo

Killing, trapping or keeping wildlife is an offence.

Can't name it? Treat it as DANGEROUS. Keep 10 m.

Animal in your home?

Snake	Get everyone out. Shut the door, push a towel along the gap. In the toilet? Don't flush. Call ESC.
Monkey	Don't corner it or block its way out. Get everyone out, close the inner door. Let it keep the food. Call ESC.
Monitor lizard	Get everyone out. Close inner doors. Open an outside door only if it's away from the lizard. Call ESC.
Bat	Lights and fans off. Windows open, inner doors shut. Take children and pets out. Let it find its way out.
Bird	Take pets out. Close doors to other rooms. Open windows wide, fans and lights off.
Palm civet in the roof	Thumps at night? Leave it be. Don't seal gaps first. Call ESC to check.
Wild boar or otters outside	Keep 10 m from boar, 5 m from otters. Dogs on a short lead. Cover fish ponds.

Still there, or it keeps coming back? Call or WhatsApp ESC.

FOUND AN ANIMAL IN TROUBLE?

Injured, trapped or baby animal

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First 60 seconds

1. **Keep people and pets back.**
2. **Keep it in sight** from a safe distance.
3. **Take a photo.** Zoom in, don't step closer.
4. **Call or WhatsApp ESC** with the photo and location.

Needs help if: bleeding, a limb or wing at an odd angle, can't stand, caught in something, or doesn't move away when people pass.

Please don't

- Pick it up or touch it (baby birds: see the Baby bird box)
- Give food or water
- Free it from netting or a glue trap
- Take it home
- Climb, lean out or go into a drain

Baby bird on the ground?

Feathered and hopping? Normal. Leave it. Keep pets away.

Bare or fluffy? Nest within reach from the ground? An adult can put it back. Wash your hands. Never climb.

Hurt, cold or nest gone? WhatsApp us a photo.

Baby monkey or otter pup alone? Don't go near. Its family may be close by. WhatsApp us a photo.

Many animals are fine.

A monitor in a canal or a young bird hopping is often where it should be.

Keep wildlife away

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No food, no shelter, fewer visits.

At home

- ✓ Bin food waste daily; knot rubbish bags
- ✓ No food or offerings by windows or on the balcony
- ✓ Feed pets indoors; cats and small pets in at night
- ✓ Close windows when you go out
- ✓ Door sweeps; seal gaps around pipes
- ✓ Drain covers and floor traps on
- ✓ Clear clutter from balconies
- ✗ No mothballs or chemicals. They don't keep wildlife away.

Around the estate

- ✓ Clean, closed bin centres, so no rats
- ✓ Pick ripe fruit; clear fallen fruit
- ✓ Trim branches touching walls and roofs
- ✓ Net or cover fish ponds
- ✓ Clear BBQ pits after use

Gaps in the roof? Have it checked before sealing. Never seal an animal inside.

Feeding wildlife is an offence.
Please don't. Ask helpers and visitors not to.

Seen the same animal again? Tell your management. There's usually easy food nearby.

Bites and first aid

Snake bite? Call 995 straight away

DO

- Keep them still and calm, lying on their side
- Keep the bitten limb still, not above the heart
- Remove rings, watches and tight clothing
- Note the time and what the snake looked like
- Pet bitten? Take it to a vet straight away

DON'T

- Cut, suck, tie or ice the bite
- Try to catch or kill the snake

Don't guess the snake. Treat every bite as an emergency. Call 995.

Venom in the eyes?

Move away from the snake. Don't rub. Rinse with clean water for 15 minutes or more, eyelids open. Call 995.

Other bites and scratches

- Wash with soap and running water, 15 minutes or more
- Cover with a clean dressing
- See a doctor today; say which animal
- Heavy bleeding? Press firmly, call 995
- Pet bitten or scratched? Take it to a vet straight away
- Ignore a small bite or scratch

Singapore has been rabies-free since 1953. Bites can still get infected.

General first aid, not medical advice. Follow the 995 operator.

FOR THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD

Everyone can help

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Children

- ✗ Never touch wild animals, even dead ones
- ✓ Walk away calmly; tell an adult

Helpers

- ✓ Close kitchen windows before cooking
- ✓ Wet droppings first; gloves and a mask

Pets

- ✓ Dogs on a short lead
- ✗ Never touch an animal your pet caught

Estate staff

- ✓ Keep people back; one person watches
- ✗ No sticks, brooms or hoses

When to call ESC

- ✓ Snakes, including pythons and cobras
- ✓ Monitor lizards, palm civets, macaques, wild boar and bats
- ✓ Cats, dogs and pets stuck at height or in drains
- ✓ Birds, otters, anything else? WhatsApp a photo for advice.

We guide animals away without capture wherever possible. Any capture is subject to the approvals each species requires.

Tell us: where it is, a zoomed-in photo, where it went.

Save us in your phone

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Step back.
Keep watch.
Call ESC.

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80 Genting Lane, #04-10, Singapore 349565
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