

# Practical Solutions to Possums in your Roof



Do you have possums in your roof? No problem! If you follow the simple suggestions below you can avoid possible damage and have peaceful sleep once more!

Finding where possums get into your roof is imperative. This access point will need to be sealed up once the animal has gone out to feed after dark.

Trapping possums in the roof should be seen as a last resort and will not by itself fix your problem.

Taking possums out of their territory and releasing them elsewhere will unquestionably endanger their lives, and other possums may move into their vacated territory.

An ideal solution is to build nest boxes for possums and place them in trees in your garden. This provides alternative weather-protected shelter, which is the reason possums move into your roof in the first place.

Providing a feeding station in the trees will help attract possums to the nest boxes nearby. Brown bread and chopped apple are lures to your newly installed nest box.

The Local Laws Department in the Knox Civic Centre has a sample nesting box they can show you. Alternatively, follow the directions on the back of this sheet and build your own.



## Did you know?

Possums are extremely intelligent animals and you must spend time repairing and checking your roof and eaves for possible entry points. A loose tile or board will be quickly found and worked on to create an access point.

Cutting branches back from overhanging trees above your house will limit a possum's ability to reach your roof.

Possums have a scent gland high on their chest and as they squeeze into a hole some fluid oozes onto the entry point to warn others that this area is occupied.

It is very important to seal off access points, otherwise other possums will move in when the previous scent fades. If you don't do this, trapping will only temporarily alleviate your problem.

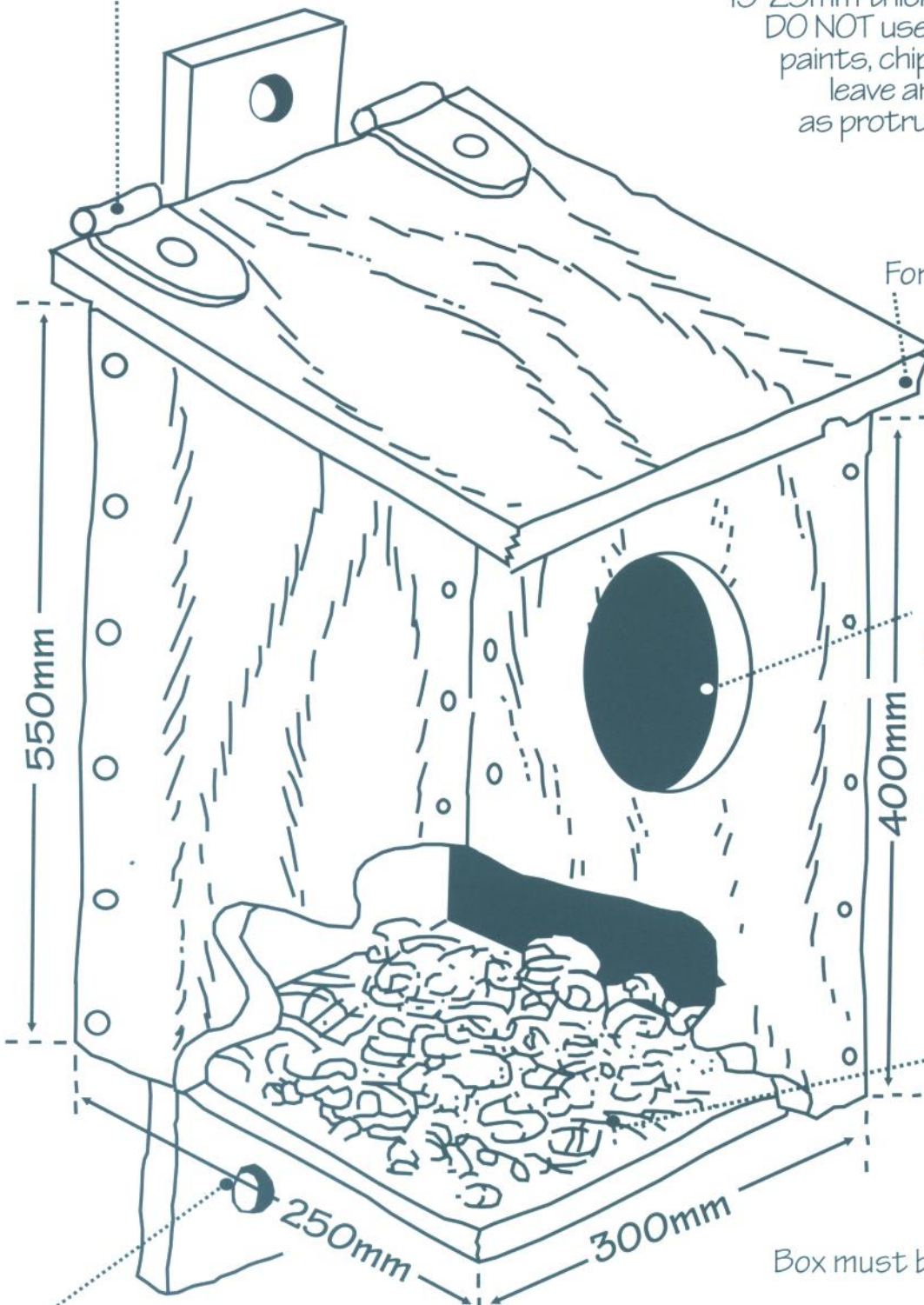
Always remember that Knox is a semi-forested area and you should expect to encounter wildlife. Learning to live with these marsupials that choose to co-habitate with us can be a rewarding experience for all.

If you have a trapped possum, cover the cage entirely as they can damage their faces trying to escape. Don't abandon the creature in the bush. Contact someone for advice, such as Yvonne Cowling "The Possum Lady" on 9762 3803.

## GENERAL NESTING BOX REQUIREMENTS

A hinged lid permits inspection and cleaning out after use. The lid should be secured using a simple clip or partly driven nail.

Nesting boxes are best made from rough sawn timber, so animals can get a grip, and should be about 19-25mm thick to provide insulation. DO NOT use treated timber, toxic paints, chipboard, smelly glues or leave any sharp objects such as protruding nails and screws.



For weather protection, the lid must slope from the back and overhang the front by about 25mm. It should also overhang the sides. DO NOT use sheet metal on the lid.

Entrance hole should be no larger than is necessary for the animal the box is intended to house. i.e. 80-100mm for Brushtail Possums. Entrance should be near the top and to one side of the box to maximise entry of light.

20mm deep layer of wood shaving should cover the floor.

Place box at least 3m above ground.

Box must be stable and upright.

Fix a mounting strip to the back of the box to make attachment to the tree trunk easier. Pre-drill nail holes to prevent splitting and use 100mm galvanized flat-head nails.

This brochure has been produced by the Knox Environment Society in co-operation with the City of Knox.

