

## Burnt feet

Every year a few possums come into care with burnt feet. These photos are aimed at assisting with the process of deciding whether to treat or euthanase. This possum would be considered as borderline. The burns are about as bad as they could be if the possum was otherwise healthy. Any worse than this and euthanasia is probably the best option. If the possum was in poor condition, the burns would need to be far less severe than this if you were to considering with going ahead with treatment.



Treatment and other factors to consider:

- **PAIN MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL.**
- Antibiotic treatment is required and will impact on the possum's digestive system.
- Housing and rehabilitation requires a strict hygiene regime.
- Topical treatment may be required.
- Bandages and regular bandage changes may be required.
- If treated at home by a wildlife carer, regular veterinary checks are essential.
- Does the possum have pouch young? The injuries and treatment may cause mum to 'throw' her baby or impact on her ability to properly care for her young. It may be in the mother's best interests to remove joeys.
- Joeys, particularly ringtails, need to be watched closely as lactation can stop from the stress of burns and babies can starve.
- The injured animal will devote much of its energy reserves to healing, so weight needs to be monitored closely.