

# Statement on Animal Welfare

*Bettong & Buddies* has some unusual co-stars! We're working closely with wildlife biologists at Animals Anonymous to make the comfort, safety, and enjoyment of Ruffous and his buddies our top priority. This means that sometimes our performances might be a little different. Some days, our animal co-stars might get a little stage fright, or not be up for meeting audiences after the show, and that's okay. Our human performers are improvising pros - who also respect that animals have their own wants and needs. We listen to those, very closely. That's also part of getting to know Australia's indigenous animals: sometimes in the wild, they don't want to be seen either.

Our animal co-stars come from Animals Anonymous' conservation reserve. They have all been captive bred, and have lived / been raised around people from a young age. They are not rescued or taken from the wild. This reduces any stress to the animals, as wild animals are completely different.

Animals Anonymous is a small business. The animals we work with all live at our house, and are treated like family. They are not used for entertainment, but education - even in *Bettong & Buddies*. Raising awareness about Australian animals is all too important as the issues we are facing with species becoming endangered and habitat loss is too common. We feel it is crucial that the next generation learns about what a bettong is, or what a quoll is, before it is too late to save the species from extinction. We all know about lions, pandas and orang-utans but not many Australians even know what used to live in their own backyard 100 years ago.