

SPRING QUENDA COUNT

Frequently asked questions



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**

Thank you for helping the WA Gould League and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to better understand our urban quendas (bandicoots) in the face of urban sprawl and loss of natural habitat. Here, we explain how to do the Spring Quenda Count, but please contact us at quenda@wagouldleague.com.au if you have any further questions.



Photo: Narelle Dybing

How can I be part of the Spring Quenda Count?

There are three simple steps to be a Quenda Counter:

- 1) Choose your survey site and survey times.
- 2) Count the number of quendas seen each survey.
- 3) Fill out a data sheet and return it by 8 November 2025.

Why should I do the Spring Quenda Count again?

About half of the sites we have surveyed in the last 5 years have only been surveyed once. Repeated surveys over time are critical to boost our understanding of how the quenda population is responding to urban threats. If you have participated in the Spring Quenda Count in the past and still have access to the survey site, we would love you to take part in the 2025 survey.

How do I choose a site?

Choose a place where you have seen quendas. It may be your own garden, a local park or patch of bush – if it is a big block, just do part of it. For example, around 50m by 50m (50m is about 70 paces) is great!

If you've done the count before and still have access to the site, please count again at that site.

When should I do the count?

Choose any week in October when you can do at least one survey. A survey takes place on a single day and it is best to look in the early morning and/or the evening, when quendas are usually most active. A single survey is useful but we encourage you to complete 2 or 3 surveys in your chosen week; please leave a day or two between each survey.

It is very important that you choose your survey days in advance, rather than waiting until you see a quenda before you start a survey, even if this means no quendas are seen during a particular survey.

How do I estimate the time spent looking?

Please estimate the amount of time spent actively looking or being 'on the lookout' for quendas during each survey. It is very important for us to know what the survey effort was in order to analyse the data. Being 'on the lookout' simply means that you are in the search area and if a quenda turns up, you are likely to see it. You can add up time spent throughout the day. For example, 30 minutes spent gardening in the morning and 15 minutes in the garden during the evening of that same day = 45 minutes total time spent looking.

How do I count the quendas?

Record how many quendas you see in your search area each day. Be careful to not count the same quenda twice. For example, record 3 quendas if you can actually see 3 individuals in the survey area at the same time. If you see animals at different times in one day and you are sure they are different individuals, add them together to get a total. For example, if you saw 1 large quenda with a missing tail in morning, and then 3 small quendas in the evening, all with complete tails, record a total of 4 quendas for that day.

What if I don't see any quendas?

Not seeing quendas is still an important result to share with us! We understand that this can be disappointing, but this data is very important for tracking the status of the quenda. If you don't see quendas on any day that you are looking for them, write zero (0) and be sure to also record the amount of time spent 'being on the lookout for quendas' for that day on your survey sheet. Remember – zero is a result, just the same as 1, 3 or 10. Look for other signs of quendas as well, like cone-shaped diggings and record those too.

What if I see a quenda somewhere else or outside the survey period?

We want to know about all quenda sightings, no matter when or where you find them, including any dead quendas. If you see a quenda, email the location, date you saw the quenda, a description of the animal and your contact details to fauna@dbca.wa.gov.au.

How do I submit my count data?

Please return a completed Spring Quenda Count survey sheet by 8 November 2025.

By email: quenda@wagouldleague.com.au

Please note, you are responsible for your own safety while taking part in quenda surveys. Please be situationally aware, dress appropriately for the weather, take someone with you or notify someone of your destination and expected time of return.