

BRIGHTON

Heat has animals reeling

HOT WEATHER TESTS WILDLIFE

Jon Andrews and
Fiona Sexton

BAYSIDE'S wildlife is suffering this summer, with last week's heat exacerbating other problems like bad tree netting, a wildlife rescuer says.

South Oakleigh Animal Shelter rescuer Michele Phillips said she has had to rescue flocks of flying foxes from tree netting this year.

And after last week's extreme heat killed up to 1000 of them at Yarra Bend, they are all the more precious.

Ms Phillips said this month alone, she has had to save at least 20 flying foxes.

Ms Phillips said they come from Yarra Bend Park to feed on fruit trees in suburbs including Brighton, Caulfield, Beaumaris, Sandringham and Oakleigh.

But due to the type of netting used, they become

entangled and can't escape.

"We come and cut them out of the netting, hydrate them, sedate them and take them to vets," Ms Phillips said.

She said wildlife-friendly netting was available and should be used instead.

Water should also be left out for wildlife during hot nights, she said, and people should shade their gardens on hot days.

"If you find (wildlife) on the ground, put them into a box, try to give them water and ring me," she said.

She urged people not to hose down animals, as the water would heat up and make them hotter.

Ms Phillips last week rescued dozens of heat-stressed animals and birds. She was inundated with calls from residents across Melbourne's southeast. Contact her on [0411 600 591](tel:0411600591).



Suffering flying foxes were fed electrolytes during the heatwave.

Picture: YURI KOUZMIN