

# Easy Reference Sheet

## Making a Drey for Ringtail Possums

### What is a Drey?

The term 'drey' refers to a nest built by a ringtail possum. Unlike the Common Brushtail Possum who prefers to live in tree hollows, the ringtail will gather sticks and branches to build a nest high up in a tree. The drey has small sticks and branches woven together to form a ball with the inside structure lined with gathered leaf material.

This is what you might be likely to see if you look to the top of the canopy in your own backyard.

*Photo Right - Courtesy of EHP Queensland website*



We replicate the structure through the use of hanging baskets and cable ties.

*Photo Right - Michael Wilson*



Once the Drey has been built (either natural or an artificial one), the Ringtail Possums will fill and create beds inside the drey to sleep.

### Materials Required

- 2x hanging wire baskets with coconut fibre insert (purchased from a hardware store)
- Approximately 15 medium-sized cable ties
- Strong scissors
- Metal/wire Cutters

### Making a Drey?

1. Remove the chain from both baskets.



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### Making a Drey for Ringtail Possums (continued)

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2. Place one basket on top of the other making a sphere-shape. Secure the baskets together using cable ties at approximately 10cm intervals.



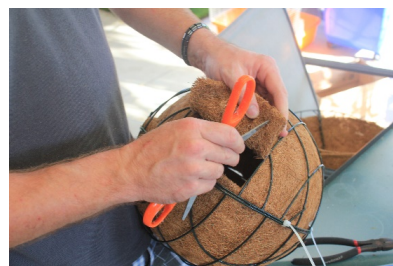
3. Using wire cutters, cut off one of the cross sections to create an entry.



4. Using the scissors, cut the fibre vertically on both sides to create the opening.



5. Punch a hole in the flap/opening in the top corners, fold upwards and secure with cable ties to the wire frame. Using several cable ties, ensure that you also secure the fibre insert to the top of the drey. This will prevent it 'caving in' under their weight if they climb on the top of the drey.



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### Making a Drey for Ringtail Possums (continued)

6. Once all the cable ties are in place, trim the ends.



7. Using one of the chains that you removed earlier, reconnect it at the join so that the basket hangs evenly



### Considerations:

- Do not to make the opening too large; they will not feel safe and will not use the drey.
- When placing the drey in a tree, ensure it is not in an exposed location. Ringtail Possums build their dreys in the canopy and limbs of trees to hide from predators. The drey should be placed in a tree out of direct sunlight, with shade, cover and somewhere the animal can remain in the trees to move around.
- Do not place the drey in an isolated tree as this will force the the possum to come to the ground to move around.

*Can you find the Drey's hidden in the trees?*

