

# Little penguin chicks rescued after 42 found dead

Meg Powell

Ten starving, highly "distressed" little penguin chicks have been rescued over the weekend from a "devastating" scene at Doctors Rocks.

The chicks were taken overnight to Burnie's Penguin Rehab and Release Facility after a [suspected dog attack](#) left 42 penguins dead.

Representatives from the rehab facility said community support for the newly orphaned birds had been pouring in ever since.

Penguin Rehab and Release treasurer Sondra Roberts said the Wynyard community in particular had been "amazing".

"They've been selling raffle tickets, donating towels... Every one here is just devastated, Wynyard is just devastated," she said.

The treasurer said the Parks and Wildlife Service had called the facility last week, offering a chance to come and rescue the surviving babies.

"We had to be really careful," she said.



The chicks were orphaned after a suspected dog attack killed 42 little penguins last week. Picture: Brodie Weeding

"We had to make sure the air con in the car was blasting so it was cold enough - they overheat at the drop of a hat and then die."

Mrs Roberts said the chicks were starving when they were found, having missed a couple of feeds.

"They can miss a feed in case their parents get stuck at sea or something," she said.

"Two is really pushing it... three would have been terrible.

"Their weight drops, they're dreadfully stressed, and then they can just die."

The chicks are currently being kept in individual boxes, and are going through an enormous amount of clean towels.

***"I'm the treasurer, I know how short of funds we are. We're desperate for towels too."***

Sondra Roberts

"We're desperate for more money... I'm the treasurer, I know how short of funds we are," Mrs Roberts said.

"We're desperate for towels too."

Wildlife expert Vivienne Briggs said a lot of wildlife work was underfunded and unpaid.

"There's a huge amount of environmental people are doing a ridiculous amount of work," she said.

"But this needs to be urgently done until they can solve this issue... someone needs to be out there to protect our penguins.

"They're literally sitting ducks.

"There's nothing to stop this happening tomorrow at Burnie. It would be devastating."

Rehab volunteer Sarah Facey said they were hoping to get a few of the chicks out of their boxes within the week.