

## What to Do If You Find a Western Leopard Toad *A quick guide to being a toad hero!*

Compiled by The Western Leopard Toad Conservation Committee, May 2025

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### **First Things First: Be a Citizen Scientist!**

Found a Western Leopard Toad? Snap a photo and upload it to [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) or use the app. Your observation helps local and global efforts to protect this endangered species.


 [How to use the iNaturalist mobile app – video tutorial](#)

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### **Common Places You Might Find a Toad**

#### **In Your Veggie Garden**


Great news! Your garden is a toad haven—damp soil, tasty bugs, and no pesticides make it perfect.


 Avoid snail bait—it's highly toxic to toads. Remove snails by hand instead.

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#### **In the Swimming Pool**

Gently scoop the toad out with a leaf net, rinse it with fresh tap water, and release it in a shady garden spot.


 Tip: Prevent future mishaps by creating a toad ramp with rocks or installing a [Toadsaver](#).


 Bonus: Place shallow water trays around your garden so they can safely hydrate.

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#### **On the Road at Night**

Pull over safely, turn on your hazards, and light up the toad with your headlights. When it's safe for you and the toad, pick it up carefully with both hands, and move it to the bush in the **same direction it was heading**.

 Don't relocate it far—it may get lost trying to return.

 During July–September, toads cross roads at night to breed. Be alert for pale throats glowing in headlights, looking like stones.

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#### **In a Stormwater Gutter**


Carefully lift the toad out and place it in nearby bushes in the direction it was heading.


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#### **In Your Garden Pond**

Fantastic! You've created a breeding and hydration spot.

 Contact your local WLT Coordinator to register your pond as a breeding site.

 Note: Alien ducks and fish eat eggs/tadpoles—chat with your Coordinator about safe removal.

 Steep pond? Add rocks as an exit ramp or install a [Toadsaver](#).

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## A Pair of Toads in Amplexus (Mating Embrace)

If found on a road, gently lift both together (support under the female who is carrying the male) and move them to nearby bush in the same direction they were going.

🌟 It's a rare and special sight—handle with care.

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## Emergencies

### Injured or Dead Toad

If safe, move the body off the road to avoid secondary roadkill.

📷 If you can, upload a photo to iNaturalist—it helps map roadkill hotspots.

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## Dog Had a Toad in Its Mouth

Toads release a bitter, milky toxin to deter predators. Most dogs spit them out immediately.

💧 Rinse your dog's mouth with water.

🐾 If symptoms persist (e.g., frothing), visit a 24-hour vet.

💡 Train your dog to avoid toads and create hiding spots in your garden (leaf litter, wood piles, compost heaps).

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## Odd Places Toads Turn Up

Location	What to Do
<b>In your shoe</b>	If your shoe is in the garden, leave it! Toads love dark, cool places. Scatter old shoes under bushes. If your shoe is in your cupboard, carefully tip the toad into a shady spot in your garden.
<b>In the house</b>	Gently pick it up or use a bucket and release it in a quiet garden spot.
<b>In your dog's water bowl</b>	Move the toad, clean the bowl, and provide alternative water sources.
<b>In the toilet</b>	Use gloves or a ladle, rinse toad with tap water, and release it outdoors.
<b>Under your washing machine</b>	Leave it—it's a cool, dry hideout. Just ensure a small entrance/exit.
<b>In a drain</b>	Remove with gloves or provide a mesh or stone ramp. Avoid harmful chemicals nearby.
<b>In your garage</b>	If it is not trapped, let it be! A safe dry den with easy access is all it needs.

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### **Want to Do More?**

Volunteer to help protect Western Leopard Toads in Cape Town or the Overberg. Full training is provided.

 Email: [wltcapetown@gmail.com](mailto:wltcapetown@gmail.com)

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### **Every Photo Counts**

By uploading your toad sightings to [iNaturalist](#), you help track toad movements, breeding, and dangers—vital info for conservation.

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