

# 7

## DANGERS, DISORDERS AND DISASTERS

Every animal, in the course of its life, encounters difficulties and dangers. The wombat is no exception. Some of these adversities are part and parcel of the animal's normal way of life; others are brought about by the actions of humans.

### **Injury and infection**

As it goes about its regular activities a wombat is likely to suffer some minor accidents and injuries. Claws broken while digging and cuts on the foot pads from sharp stones and thorns are probably common occurrences. The wombat's habit of pushing its way through whatever lies in its path – thick undergrowth, tangled fallen timber and brushwood – rather than taking an easier if longer route, must make it prone to accidental sprains, breaks, cuts and abrasions, particularly as this bulldozing method of travel is often carried out at considerable speed. All these wounds, as well as those acquired while fighting or inflicted by dogs or dingoes, may become infected.

The wombat appears to be highly susceptible to bacterial infections. These have been found to be hard to treat in captivity, but the wombat