



Macropod Fence Injuries: Rescue, assessment, treatment & recovery



In the beginning

► Pints



Fence injury success

- ▶ **98% of all fence injury cases should be brought into care**
- ▶ **Many fence injured macropods can have a successful outcome.**
- ▶ **Just because a fence injured animal cannot get up after being freed does not mean it will never do so.**
- ▶ **Completed around 1500 fence injury rescues. Around 100 this year to date**

What we are covering

▶ The rescue

- ▶ Equipment
- ▶ Plan (types of fences, form of entanglement, mother & joey situation)
- ▶ Safety, on-site medication, transportation, hypothermia, hyperthermia

▶ Assessment

- ▶ Stress, lactic acidosis, hydration status
- ▶ Hip Dislocation, fractures.

▶ Treatment

- ▶ Fluid therapy & bicarbonate treatment if necessary
- ▶ Wounds and ischaemic damage
- ▶ Nerve palsy: footdrop, knuckling and leg splaying,
- ▶ Medication – pain relief, antibiotics, Baycox, tetanus vax, ivermectin , VAM

Recovery

- ▶ Standing practice, bedding, dressing changes





Rescue equipment

- Several blankets, nets
- Wire cutters/ separators
- Large joey bag for at-heel fence hangers
- Stretcher
- Sedation
- Compression bandage
- Saline, moisturising/ antiseptic cream, NAD, crepe bandage



*Where traumatised wildlife
can recover in safety*

Planning the rescue

- ▶ Preferably two rescuers
- ▶ Assess the situation at a distance
- ▶ apportion tasks
- ▶ Mother/ joey situations
- ▶ Types of fences & likely impacts
- ▶ Approach cautiously but deliberately
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Note all circumstances





On-site treatment

- ▶ Decide on sedation requirement, if any.
- ▶ Treat any significant blood loss from wound (NAD plus crepe bandage).
- ▶ Prevent contamination of wounds
- ▶ Flush wounds with saline. Apply a moistening/ antiseptic agent (eg Solugel, Silvazine, etc)
Apply NAD, crepe bandage – not too tight and bandage distally.
- ▶ Initial treatment for hypothermia or hyperthermia.
- ▶ In transporting the animal consider the possibility of a spinal injury or fracture requiring stabilisation.
- ▶ Never put an injured animal in a hanging bag for transport. Carry flat on a stretcher.
- ▶ Cover face to reduce stress.

Key treatment issues

- ▶ Stress & renal failure prevention
- ▶ Lactic acidosis
- ▶ Hip dislocation
- ▶ Wounds & ischemic damage
- ▶ Neurological injury



- ▶ Fractures

Treatment

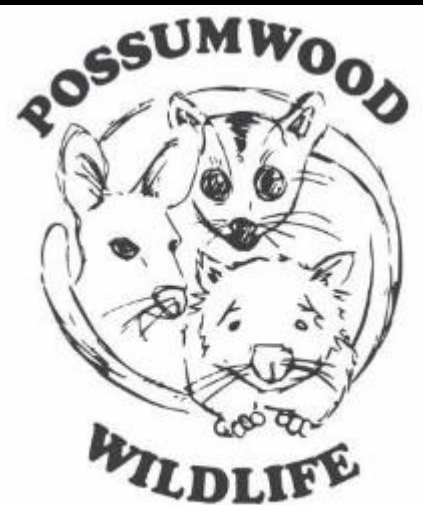
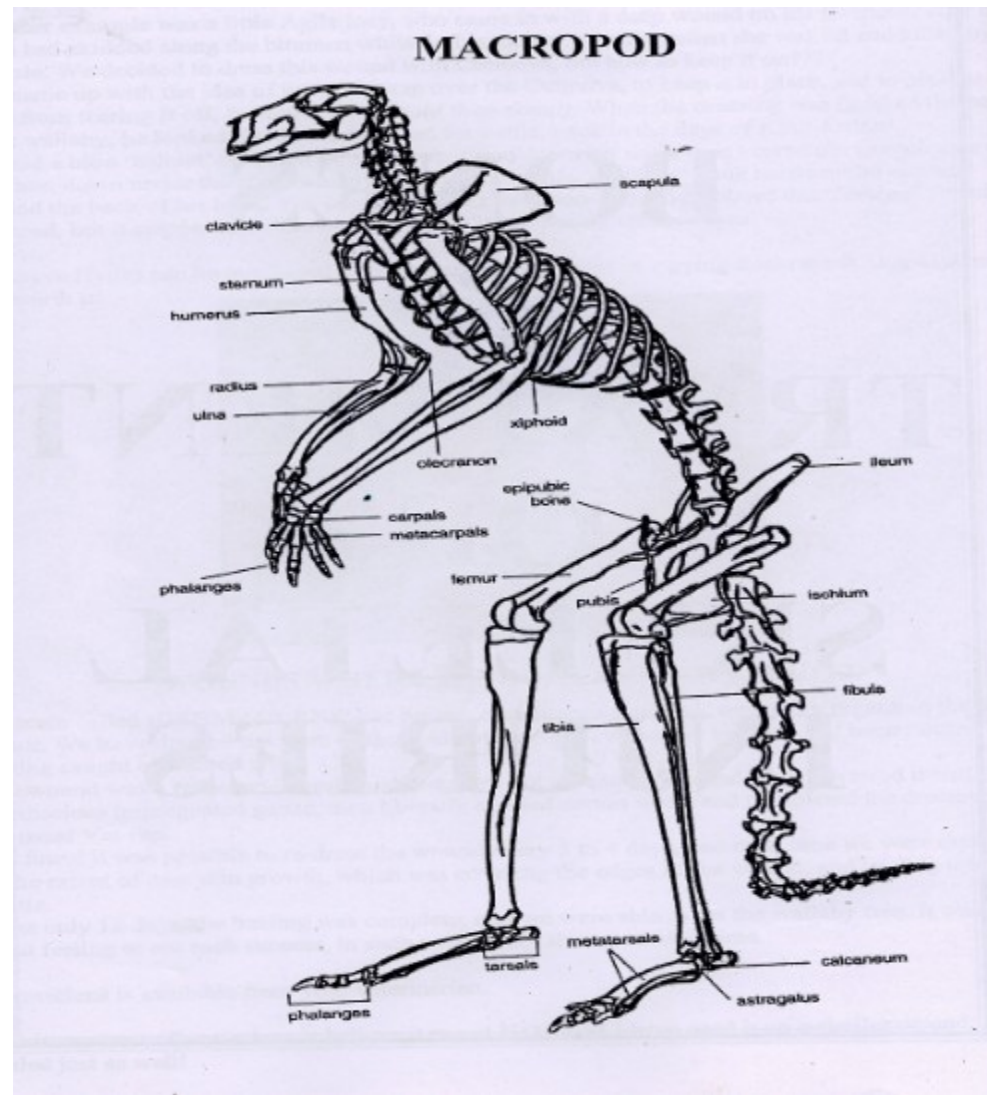
- ▶ Early & intensive fluid treatment is required to treat dehydration and stress, and help prevent renal failure –(Sodium chloride plus Sodium Bicarbonate @ 1ml/ kg SC)
 - ▶ Subcutaneous (2% - 3%)
 - ▶ Intravenous (great care has to be used when giving IV fluids to prevent fluid overload. The dose for bicarb if given is much less when given IV)
- ▶ Vit E/ Selenium 0.05ml/ kg
 - ▶ Analgesia - Tramadol 1mg/ kg IM
 - ▶ Wound treatment
 - ▶ Ultravac 5 in 1 for Tetanus (see Jim Pollock paper))
 - ▶ Piglet Baycox (0.4ml/ kg) in first week of care.
 - ▶ Ivermectin (1ml/ 10kg pour on).
 - ▶ VAM



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 Acc: Bungendore Veterinary Surgery
 Ex: KANGAROO, Possumwood wildlife (ID: 264721A)
 C: OWNER:
 Se: 1001/2 Sp/Brd: - M
 Im: 1001/1 2018 Dec 21
 PELVIS Acq Tm: 13:39:44.312
 Mag: 1.0x



Hip Dislocation



Where traumatised wildlife can recover in safety

Hip Dislocation: Types of treatment

- Small animal, veterinary treatment is an option
- Closed reduction (traction, abduction, external rotation, adduction and internal rotation)
- Open reduction
- Excision arthroplasty – removes head of femur. Mobility affected but pain free.

Junior



Tiger





Lacerations



Gumnut

Gumnut



In-situ laceration treatment



Ischaemic damage



Where traumatised wildlife
can recover in safety



Neurological damage: Sciatic nerve

- For knuckling strap in dorsiflexed position



Violet

Neurological damage: Sciatic nerve

Sciatic nerve palsy can also result in foot drop - inability to dorsiflex foot. If ankle is not splinted when animal tries to mobilise, severe ankle ligament injuries can occur



Geila

Neurological damage: Obturator nerve

Obturator nerve palsy causes inability to bring leg in towards body (adduct leg) – causes ‘frog-like’ hop.



Fractures

- ▶ Major fractures of the femur and tibia normally result in euthanasia. Often there are minor fractures of the toe and metatarsus. If there is suspicion of a fracture then splinting of the foot is recommended.



Recovery

- Bedding & pressure sores
- Standing practice
- Wound treatment
- Pathology if infection suspected



Where traumatised wildlife
can recover in safety



Wound Treatment

- ▶ Wound cleaning (e.g. NS, Prontosan)
- ▶ Topical treatment (chlorsig & Manuka honey)
- ▶ Dressings
- ▶ Betamox LA 150mg/ ml
0.1 to 0.3ml/ kg SC or
IM, second daily. Or
Oxytetracycline LA,
300mg/ ml, 0.1ml/ kg,
IM third daily

