



# 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 deliberatively
- ▶ 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



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# Treatment

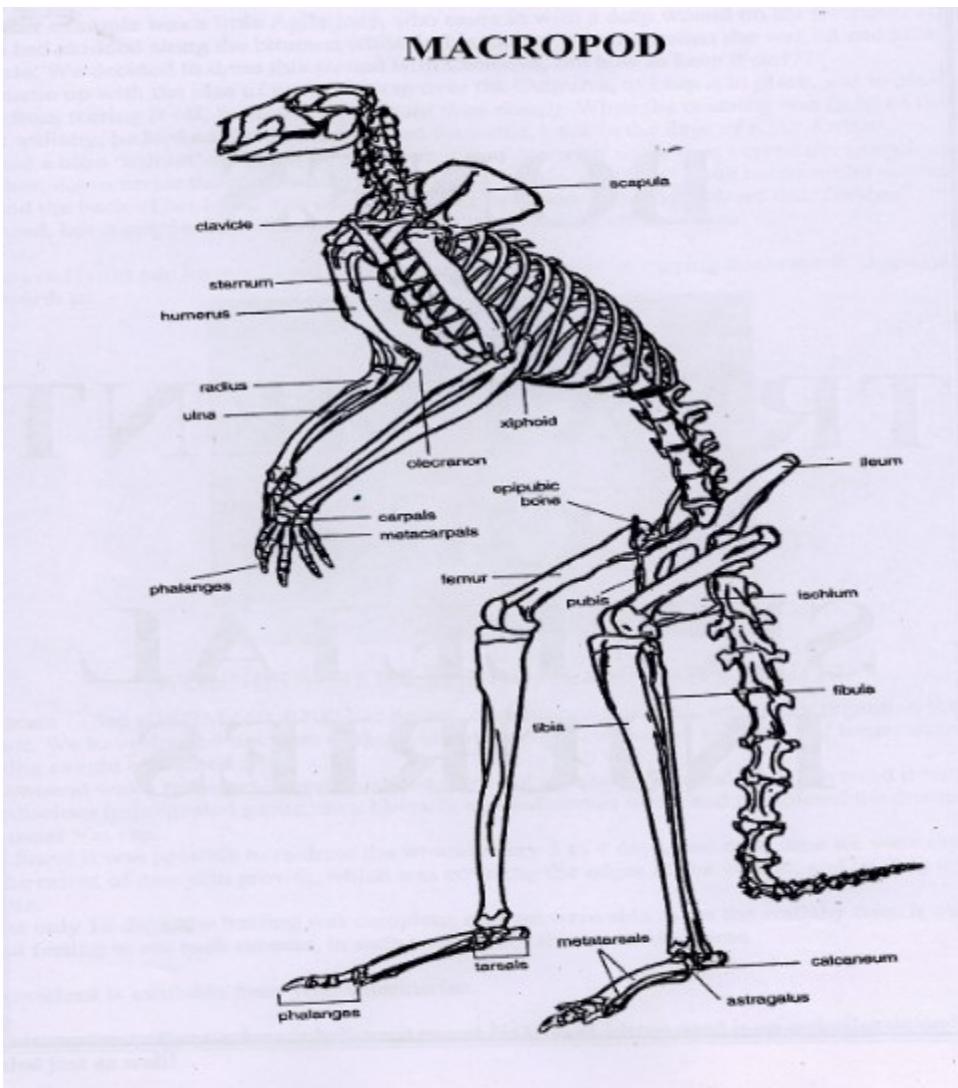
- ▶ Early & intensive fluid treatment is required to treat dehydration and stress, and help prevent renal failure –(Sodium chloride plus Sodium Bicarbonate @ 1ml/ kg SC)
  - ▶ Subcutaneous (2% - 3%)
  - ▶ Intravenous (great care has to be used when giving IV fluids to prevent fluid overload. The dose 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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# Hip Dislocation

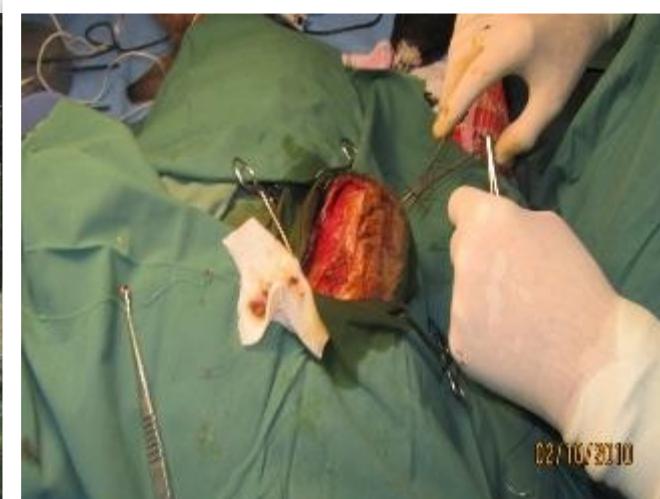


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# Hip Dislocation: Types of treatment

- 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**





# Lacerations

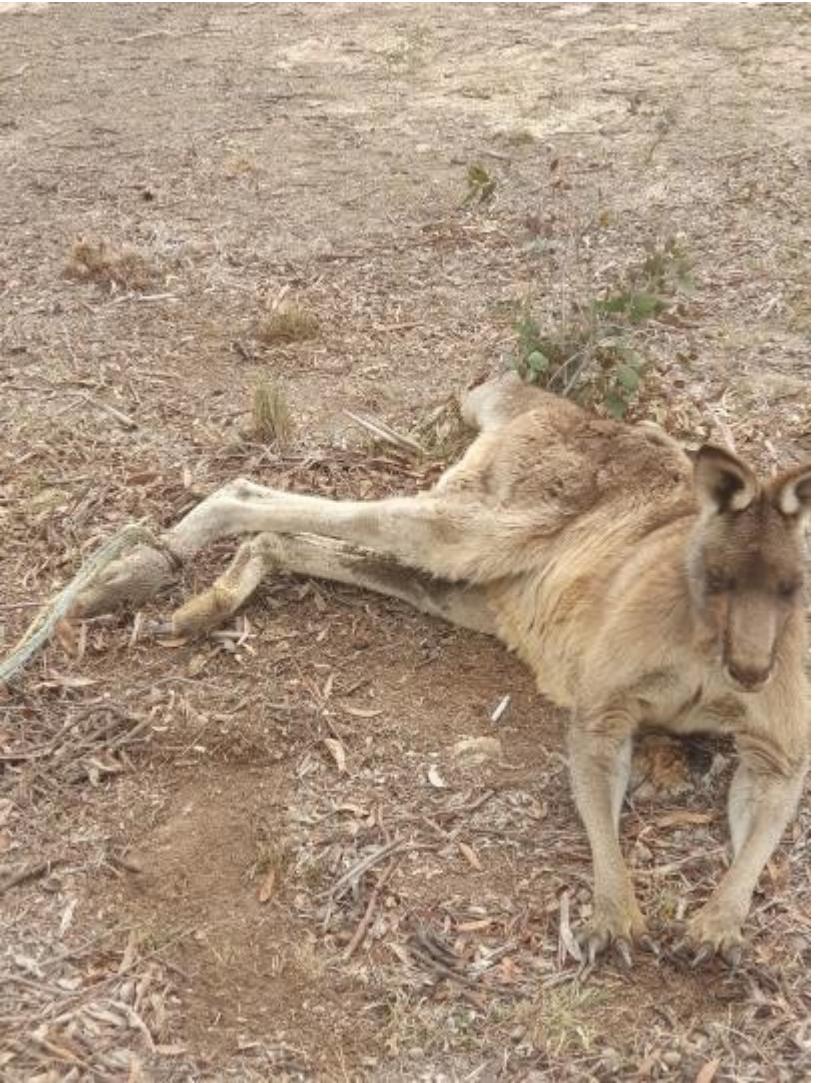


# Gumnut

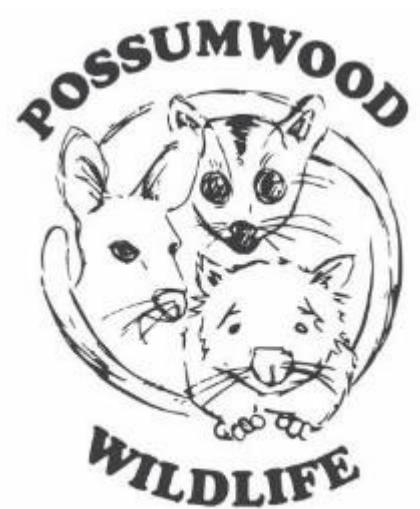
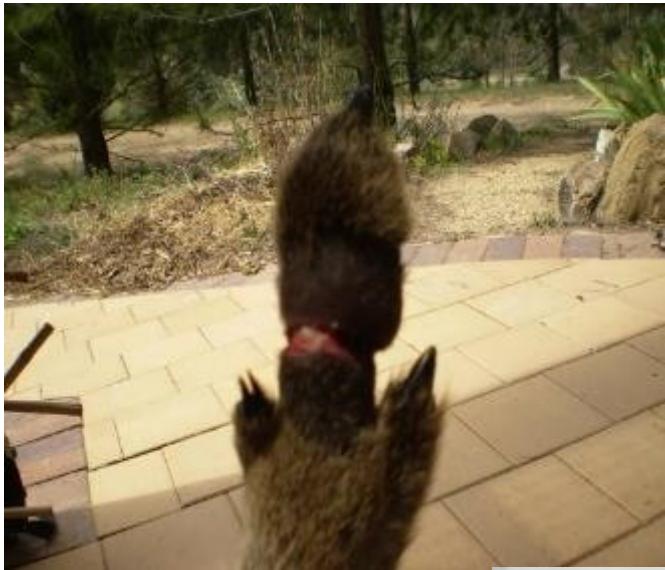


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# In-situ laceration treatment



# Ischaemic damage



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# 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.

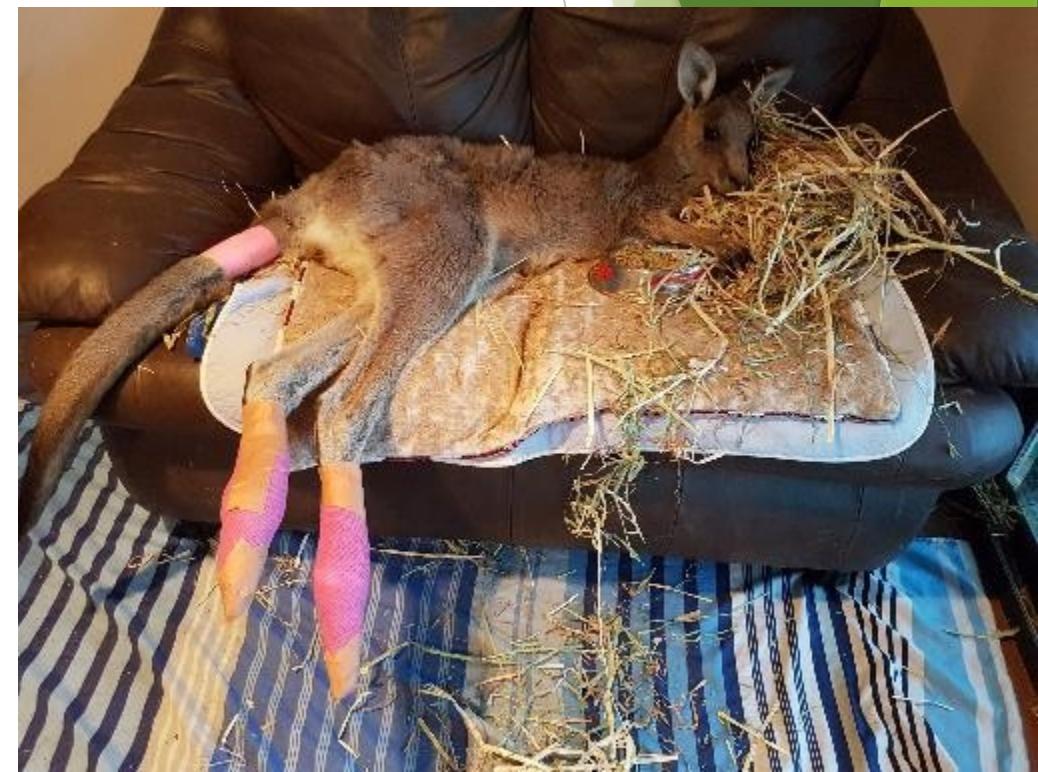


# Recovery

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



Where traumatised wildlife  
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# 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

