



GUM TIPS



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OCEAN THERESE MEETS FACIAL SURGEON



Late on the night of 26/6/06 a female koala was hit by a car at the intersection of Ocean Drive and Lake Road in Port Macquarie (a very busy roundabout). Luckily travelling just behind, was a doctor, who just happened to be the wife of another doctor who has a close connection to the hospital in having undertaken surgical work on our koalas in the past. The injured koala was transported to Joy Barber's home (one of our supervisors) for immediate assessment and treatment. Joy remarked that not only did she have one doctor attending to the koala but two (as the husband had arrived also) which made the koala very much a V.I.P.!!!! These two wonderful medicos are Ken Dawson (an oral and maxillofacial surgeon) and his wife Therese (a rheumatologist).

The koala, now named Ocean Therese (what else?) was then taken to our vet Chris Livingston for the usual tests such as X-rays etc to assess the level of damage. Ocean Therese was found to have a fracture of the mandible (lower jaw), concussion and some internal bleeding. In koalas jaw fractures are not easy injuries to repair, as the top and bottom jaw must heal so that the teeth fit in good alignment. A malaligned jaw results in poor mastication of leaf (not chewed properly) and the koala is then unable to absorb the nutrients and basically starves. If the injury creates an open wound in the mouth all sorts of nasty bugs can enter the bone with resulting infection being an almost impossible nightmare to treat. (NB: Poor body condition/starvation is a huge problem in old koalas whose teeth are so worn down, that they cannot chew properly or absorb any goodness from the leaf at all, and spend all their time continually eating and searching for palatable leaf – and often they are pushed into poorer country by younger more fitter koalas moving up the social hierarchy – unfortunately this is natural selection in action.)

Ocean Therese went into home care with Joyce and Brian Westoby for lots of intensive TLC to aid her initial recovery.

Ken Dawson then offered to repair her fractured jaw for us at no charge, which of course we accepted!!!

On the 11//7/06, the big day arrived with Joyce, Brian and Ocean Therese

Ken Dawson and his assistant Kristelle Innes arrived with a big tub filled with all sorts of interesting orthopaedic surgical tools and strange looking gizmos and began preparing the equipment for surgery.

After this Ken and Kristelle began to scrub in and gown up. Chris Livingston and his vet nurses prepared Ocean Therese, getting her anaesthesia flowing “just right” (koalas can be difficult to anaesthetise for long surgery procedures).

Finally (as all good surgeons do) Ken then prepared the surgical site with drapes etc to create a good sterile field to work in.

Once the procedure was underway, Chris and Stacey continued to monitor the anaesthetic gas and to monitor O. Therese’s vital signs. All signs were stable.

Ken drilled and implanted a titanium plate into the fracture site on the lower left mandible (lower jaw) which will allow the fracture to heal much more quickly and enable to top and bottom jaw/teeth to align perfectly.



Chris Livingston’s waiting room

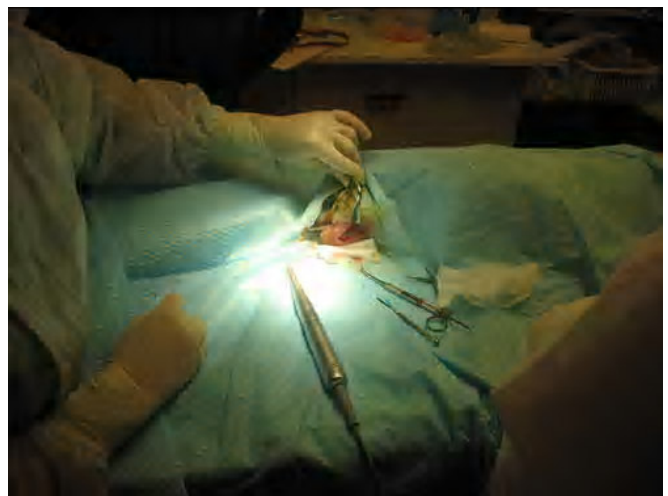
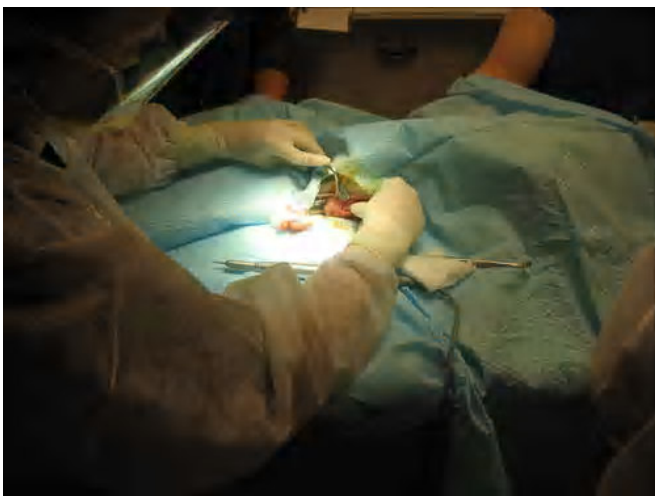
tools of the trade



Ken Dawson, Chris Livingston (vet) and Stacey (vet nurse) preparing Ocean Therese.



Ken Dawson – scrubbed in, and preparing to operate on Ocean Therese.





Thankfully, the surgery went like a breeze, and there were no complications at all. Ocean Therese handled the anaesthetic really well (as stated previously, koalas are notoriously finicky where anaesthetics are concerned) and the whole procedure from initial induction (first phase of anaesthetic) to waking up was within a couple of hours. ***Well done team – great effort!!!!***

Ocean Therese has spent the last few weeks in home care recovering from the surgery, learning to eat with her “new jaw” and slowly getting back to being a koala. The jaw has healed very well, has lined up beautifully with no malalignment at all.

At the time of writing this article , Ocean Therese is commencing her second stage of rehabilitation in the outside yards at the Hospital. This is needed to build up the weakened muscles and gain strength for climbing trees. We are hoping to release Ocean Therese in the very near future (and hope she doesn’t go near any metal detectors with her titanium plate!!).

KOALA CAPERS

The following is an article taken from the Port Macquarie News.

A Cattlebrook Road family gave up watching television on Wednesday night when they discovered that the local wildlife can be so much more entertaining.

A koala, who regularly visits the property, caught sight of his reflection in a rear sliding glass door.

It obviously offended him because he spent the next ten minutes boxing the imaginary intruder.

When he realized the enemy was not about to back down, our fury friend stomped off with a serious dose of attitude.

He made it some metres from the rear of the property before turning around and heading straight back to the window to give the intruder another beating.

From the President

For the information of new members the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie is the world's first hospital dedicated solely to the care and preservation of koalas. The Hospital has a treatment room, eight Intensive Care Units, a 24 hour rescue and treatment operation and multiple recovery yards. The Hospital also has a research affiliation with the University of Sydney. Open every day of the year, residents and visitors alike are encouraged to visit and learn more about Koalas.

We are extremely grateful for the financial support of our members and to those who Adopt a Wild Koala as we rely completely on donations to keep the work going. It not only helps to improve the working environment of the hospital, but we can also more effectively raise awareness of koalas and their needs.

Widespread education and awareness are the keys to ensuring that we all play a role in the preservation of this unique Australian species.

I am grateful to the committee, staff and volunteers that work hard to meet the demands of this unique facility.

Our Education room is almost complete; new fencing replaced some of the old tired fences and we have launched the Koala Hospital's Disability Access Program to enable equal access for all visitors.

Your continued caring and financial support is appreciated; giving the hospital the facilities to continue the work started here over thirty years ago.

Bob Sharpham 

President

THE SUPERVISORS' REPORT

Well, spring has sprung with breeding season in full swing. The koalas didn't read the text book and began their search for mates much earlier this year – probably following the rest of nature as all the wattles were in full bloom weeks ago, the bird activity has increased dramatically and lots of young kangaroo joeys around too, and even the odd snake is popping up for a look around. Global warming or a normal spike in the season?

Admissions to the Hospital are up with the majority being chlamydial infections – lots of wet bottom koalas. There have been far too many motor vehicle impact admissions also. The age of most admitted koalas has been quite mature to old, which could possibly indicate more pressure on the already disrupted social structure of the koalas in the Port Macquarie township. We also have had quite a few very young joeys (a good number in home care) which does indicate recruitment is still happening (breeding and repopulating of numbers is still quite healthy in the town itself).

Unfortunately, unless habitat loss/ housing development throughout the district is kept within environmental bounds, the Port Macquarie koalas will eventually become shut off from the "gene pool" flow of "new blood" from feeder populations from outside of the town area. As more and more forested areas are ripped up for new development, the more fragmented, isolated and difficult it will become to maintain the urban koalas of the town, who struggle enough as it is to survive. Vision and foresight for maintaining this unique urban koala population is an obligation we have for not only future generations to enjoy but a vision that states that wild urban koalas boost the economy and add so much to this area in so many ways. (here endeth my soap box lecture!!!).

Along with many admissions of koalas, we also have had a huge influx of willing people wishing to volunteer at the hospital. Pretty well all of each days shifts are full to the brim of good workers. Its wonderful to see all those smiling faces who are all contributing to the conservation of this iconic species. Good one team, and well done.

Cheers, *The Supervisors.*

WAS IT JUST A BAD HAIR DAY OR WAS IT A MILESTONE???

Recently our Monday morning team leader Pam Whippy celebrated eight years of working at the Koala Hospital – and over the previous weekend was really looking forward to enjoying that particular Monday shift with her team. But, was it all worth it????

THE PAM WHIPPY DIARY MONDAY 15th MAY

- ❖ Pam got up at 4 am thinking it was 5 am. So, having an extra hour to kill before heading off, she drank copious amounts of coffee (not a good move Pam).
- ❖ Walked down the road in the dark and trod in a squishy pile of something that had a distinct odour and feel of **VERY BIG DOG HAS JUST BEEN HERE.**
- ❖ After removing that with a stick, Pam continued on walking in the dark to the Hospital. It had been raining the night before, there were puddles everywhere, and Pam thought she would be very clever and walk on the side of the road well away from where the **VERY BIG DOG** had been. Along comes a speeding car, who drives straight through a pot hole puddle and sprays muddy water all over Pam.
- ❖ After wiping herself down, Pam marches on to the Hospital. Suddenly, **CRASH, BANG AND SPLAT!** A huge limb of a tree falls down in front of Pam, which made the knees start knocking. Will I go home says Pam and go back to bed and start again??? Nah, says Pam, I'm going to work.
- ❖ Pam arrives at the Hospital and goes about her duties. Next thing she knows she slipped over in some mud outside Yard 9, landed on her bottom and the wet tracksuit pants (from the car puddle) have a nice coating of brown mud to just finish them off nicely.
- ❖ Pam gets up in disgust, wipes herself down (again) and then promptly walked straight into not one, not two, but three cobwebs. And we all know how much Pam loves spiders.
- ❖ By the this time, the legs are wobbly, the heart is racing, so Pam heads back inside to safety. And what does Pam do? Slams her hand in the treatment room door and said "ouch that hurt" (yea sure Pam).
- ❖ So by this time Pam thought it would be much safer to sit at the table and write up charts, and leans over to pick up a pile of charts and promptly drops them on the floor. Then of course, just to finish things off nicely when bending over to pick the charts up – a certain unmentionable frilly bit of underwear snaps and breaks. Great.

And this was all before 7.30 am.

And the Supervisor was wondering why Pam was so hesitant to handle koalas that morning????? Maybe Pam thought that there might have been carnivorous koalas in the intensive care that Monday?????

Congratulations Pam on surviving your anniversary day!!!!

WHATS THE LATEST WITH ADOPTAWILDKOALA???

Just to refresh memories, "adopt a wild koala", is a program where people from all over the world can "adopt" (sponsor) a particular koala on an annual basis, and the funds from the scheme are channelled into the Hospital's work.

Our adoptee "parents" join us either through visiting the Hospital itself, seeing the work going on, and participating in the walk and talk guided tour where they tend to learn about the adoption programme. Alternatively, adoptions happen via our website where people read up about the Hospitals work and wish to help out where they can.

A lot of the adoptions are actually gifts for friends and families (what a lovely different positive sort of gift to give don't you think?). We also have big businesses and corporations who sponsor a koala and have their photo hanging in the office, tea room or lobby of the building.

We even have two adoptee parents from Vienna, Austria who have adopted two koalas until 2014!!!

So, overall the current adoption status as of August 2006 is 628 "adoptee parents" from all over the world.

At the last count:	Favourites in order
336 from Australia	Bonnie Fire
54 from the UK	Cloud
44 from the USA	Parkwood Lili.
39 from Germany	Bermuda Barb
24 from Switzerland	Kempsey Carolina
23 from Austria	Bonnie Ash
19 from Ireland	Moondara Moonshine
17 from the Netherlands	Binnacle Clearview
13 from Canada	Tuffy Tuffin
	Kylies Beach James



HOSPITAL REPORT

ADMISSION	NAME	REASON	RESULT
22.09.94	Cloud F	Bushfire Victim	Permanent Resident
6.11.00	Kempsey Carolina F	Head Trauma—Motor Vehicle Accident	Permanent Resident
11.10.01	Bonnie Fire F	Bushfire Victim	Permanent Resident
22.10.04	Tractive Golfer M	Underweight	
04.11.05	Bangalay Roadrunner M	Abscess behind right knee	
21.01.06	Wiruna Lucky F	cataracts both eyes	
24.01.06	Hamlyn Bev F Joey	Orphaned	
29.01.06	Bangalay Blue M	Infected Left hind leg	
06.04.06	Treeview Way Sam M	Chlamydia (Wet Bottom) - I.C.U.	
24.04.06	Jonas Barrington M	Infection left eye	Released 06.06.06
28.04.06	Oxley Bill M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 05 .05.06
01.05.06	Hamlyn Chops M	Severe Wet Bottom	Euthanized 23 .06.06
10.05 .06	Kamona Andre M	Wet Bottom	Released 22.06.06
12.05.06	Granite Murray M	Injury to right forearm, possible wet bottom	Self Release 07.08.06
2 1.05.06	Hill Street Paddy	Wet Bottom	Self Release 05.07.06
24.05.06	Kundabung Don M	Conjunctivitis both eyes	Release 13.08.06
26.05 .06	Hamlyn Connie F	Suspect Wet Bottom -checked	Released 25.06.06
27.05 .06	Rudder Coastline F	Sitting in driveway	Euthanized 07.06.06
27.05 .06	Livingstone Bendigo M	Mild Wet Bottom - Fractured tooth	Released 22.06.06
30.05.06	Links MVA F	crushed front hand - possible M.V.A.	Euthanized 31.05.06
30.05.06	Links VTR M Joey	Joey of Links MVA -Home Care	
01.06.06	Gordon Amanda F	Sitting on Median Strip	Relocated 01.06.06
04.06.06	Lord Jason M	On ground -loss of weight	Euthanized 08.06.06
05.06.06	Reading Nuck F Joey	Fall from tree - Home Care - bacterial septicaemia	Euthanized 21.08.06
07.06.06	Oxley Innes M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
14.06.06	Leanda Pool M	Drowned in Swimming Pool	Dead on Arrival
16.06.06	Granite Kerry	Found in Driveway	Dead on Arrival
24.06.06	Marbuk Jones F	Advanced composition	Dead on Arrival
25.06.06	Telegraph Lewis M	Wet Bottom (Chlamydia)	Euthanized 04.07.06
25.06.06	Wood Peta F	Wet Bottom (Chlamydia)	Euthanized 28.06.06
25 .06.06	Willow Sarah F	Aged and poor condition	Euthanized 26.06.06
26.06.06	Ocean Therese F	Broken Jaw -Motor Vehicle Accident	
26.06.06	Ocean Ken M Joey	Joey of Ocean Therese - Home Care	
28.06.06	Davis Lighthouse M	rusty Left Eye - checked - no disease	Released 29.06.06
05.07.06	Kempsey Crescent M	conjunctivitis	Released 13.08.06
05.07.06	Parklands Keith	Knee damage - locked - possible M.V.A.	
07.07.06	Hastings Peter M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
07.07.06	Koala Newcastle M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 07.07.06
08.07.07	Pacific Wandella M	Wet Bottom (Chlamydia)	Self Release 13.08.06
08.07.06	Grassmere Anna F	Dog Attack	Euthanized 08.07.06
08.07.06	Leander Tinker	Conjunctivitis	Released 11.07.06
10.07.06	Kingfisher Sally F	On ground - scoliosis	Euthanized 12.07.06
11.07.06	Lady Nelson Lea F	Dog attack - fractured humerus	Euthanized 17.07.06
11.07.06	Lady Nelson Woody M Joey	Joey of Lady Nelson Lea— Home Care	
14.07.06	Harley Hart M	Poor Body Condition	Release 2 1.07.06
22.07.06	Hastings Jenny F	Chlamydia - dog attack	
23 .07.06	Marbuk Jamie M	Unknown	Died 23.07.06
26.07.06	Koala Ray M	Wet Bottom (Chlamydia)	
29.07.06	Gordon Gary	On ground	Dead on Arrival
02.08.06	Links Mitch M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 02.08.06
05.08.06	Cathie Tern F	Found on Ground -debilitated	Euthanized 09.08.06
06.08.06	Lake Billie M	Conjunctivitis	Released 28.08.06
06.08.06	Major Innes Oxley M Joey	Fell from tree	Dead on Arrival
07.08.06	Lorne Pope M	Blind, debilitated	Euthanized 09.08.06

11.08.06	Kennedy Campbell F	Drowned in swimming pool	Dead on Arrival
11.08.06	Water Reserve Dale F	Advanced Chlamydia	Euthanized 12.08.06
13.08.06	Cathie Bell Joey M	Found hanging in tree by one leg	Dead on Arrival
14.08.06	O'Briens Germane F	On verandah in yard with dogs - checked	Released 14.08.06
15.08.06	Leander Tinker M	Found on ground debilitated with distended abdomen	Euthanized 17.08.06
19.08.06	Marbuk Tilpa M	Motor Vehicle Accident - Head trauma	Released 25.08.06
20.08.06	Karalee Cal M	Conjunctivitis	
22.08.06	Pacific Wandella M	Chlamydia - wet bottom	
22.08.06	Nulla Sam M	Chlamydia - wet bottom	
24.08.06	Fernhill John M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
24.08.06	Marbuk Jones M	Found on ground	Dead on Arrival
28.08.06	Kevin M	Dog Attack	
28.08.06	Kendall F	Chlamydia - wet bottom	
29.08.06	Oxley Lucky Joey F	Walking on Highway no sign of mother - Home care	
30.08.06	Halyard Staffy M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival

PORT MACQUARIE:

JUN.	Permanent 3	Treated 25	Released 4	Euthanized 5	Dead/Died 1	Admitted 13
JUL	Permanent 3	Treated 22	Released 3	Euthanized 5	Dead/Died 4	Admitted 15
AUG.	Permanent 3	Treated 27	Released 7	Euthanized 5	Dead/Died 7	Admitted 20



From our friends in the Netherlands.....

A thank you is in order

As a result of my work for the Koala Hospital I get in contact with lots of different people. First of all there are those who adopt a koala and/or sponsor a food tree. Because of their most valued support the koalas in the Port Macquarie region have a chance to recover and survive.

At times, the work results in a permanent contact, whereby - with smaller or larger intervals - messages are sent backwards and forwards on a regular basis. Personally I find it a very nice additive, because new ideas evolve from those contacts, but most of all it makes me feel it's not all just about money. Of course it is a fact that finances play a major role in our work for the Koala Hospital. But it is the enthusiastic reactions that make it all worthwhile. If it was just about collecting the adoption money the fun for me would have ended already a long time ago.

But there is more support that is not always visible, and yet very present. For example the ongoing support of **AbOriginal Team Events** from Wassenaar, a company that organizes team events with an Australian touch. After they got in touch with our Foundation they were so enthusiastic that we became the beneficiary of their city game. During this game funds are raised and when the participating company so chooses, it allows them to adopt a koala. This way 8 company koala adoptions took place over the past year.

In addition, we are very happy with the support of **Laurens Karg** from Diemen. Laurens is a graphic designer. When he learned about our work (end 2005) he spontaneously offered his support. Since then he has designed two beautiful posters for us.

The first poster was printed by **Impromo** from Haarlem. The poster found its way to the Tavel Event 2006 at the Jaarbeurshallen in Utrecht and resulted in a great interest from the public. We wanted to have an extra poster printed for our stand at the 4 November Australia Fair at the Aboriginal Art Museum in Utrecht. When we again gave Impromo the printing order, they replied by saying it would be their pleasure to sponsor this new poster.

There are a number of other examples of people and companies that are happy to support our work. Their spontaneous reactions and encouragements make our already nice jobs even better. We would therefore like to express our appreciation to all of them!

Carla Sluiter, the Netherlands

VALE - THE CROCODILE HUNTER

STEVE IRWIN

No matter what your personal opinion may have been of him, no one can deny that Steve Irwin was indeed a champion for the conservation of not only Australia's native fauna, but wildlife from all over the world.

He may have been flamboyant, over the top and "in your face" but nonetheless his laconic loud character highlighted so publicly the message of protecting and saving our native species.

Who else could have so passionately changed so many peoples attitudes from being fearful of reptiles to having not only an understanding of their importance in the environment but to actually have an appreciation of how beautiful all reptiles truly are?

Steve most definitely was not all talk and no action. Literally millions of dollars have gone into huge tracts of land to preserve and revegetate habitat so that threatened and vulnerable native species have some where to survive and breed.

Australia Zoo has built a Wildlife Hospital (which is currently being extended and upgraded) that has two full time vets, vet nurses and a dedicated team of volunteers who admit an incredible amount of species every week, particularly koalas, who make up a large number of their patients. All receive full veterinary care, surgery, and medications etc which come out of the Steve Irwin Foundation.

We here at the Koala Hospital have quite a strong connection with Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital with interchanging visits of staff between the two facilities to share information of treatments etc. The Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital is also involved in our three year Chlamydia drug trial that we are running in conjunction with Sydney University.

The loss of this "wildlife warrior" has not only shocked the nation, but is an indescribable loss to all wildlife carers and researchers who battle on a daily basis to stop the decimation of habitat and to try to prevent our precious native fauna dwindling even further. Steve Irwin was a voice who reached out to make people understand the need to conserve and to protect our native wildlife.

For myself personally, coming from a herpetological background, and whose other passion apart from koalas is reptiles, it is truly a tragedy to lose such an advocate for this much maligned group of animals. We are responsible for the welfare, protection and preservation of *all* wildlife no just selected species that we may find appealing.

We can only chuckle and imagine that Steve is up in heaven right now getting all excited and showing some angels the best way to tail and handle an Eastern Brown Snake. We salute you Steve.

Cheyne Flanagan
Head Supervisor
The Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

WHAT'S WET BOTTOM, DIRTY TAIL OR CHLAMYDIA?

All the above are describing basically the same thing. In NSW when a koala is suffering from a reproductive chlamydial infection it is called "wet bottom". In Qld and Victoria they call it "dirty tail". All the same symptoms, the same disease - just simply called a different name.

So, what exactly is "chlamydial infection"?

Chlamydia comes from the genus *Chlamydiophilia* and is a bacterium. The chlamydial organism (varied species and strains) infects many animal groups from all over the world including humans, cats, koalas and it's even found in frogs!

Currently it is believed that there are two species that infect koalas – *Chlamydia pecorum* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae* (with a number of strains). These organisms attack either the eyes (conjunctivitis) or the urogenital tract (wet bottom) or both.

As is the case with human chlamydia, unless the infection is picked up early it is virtually impossible to cure. With ongoing research, such as our three year Sydney University study, the future of treatment success will hopefully be a far more positive one.

On admission, koalas usually exhibit classic clinical signs (outward) of wet bottom infection (more often than not, that's the reason a member of the public calls us to get them in the first place). Often the first observation is the brown staining on the rump and bottom of the animal, accompanied by the distinctive "wet bottom" smell. With more chronically affect animals, they arrive in poor body condition, are quiet and subdued in behaviour, with their fur being dull, brown and dry instead of the normal grey soft lustre. Koalas suffering more advanced disease tend to be dehydrated, hollow gutted and thirsty. Terminal stage admissions are not a pretty sight at all and will not be described here.

Apart from observing and recording the clinical signs (which are vitally important), there are a number of diagnostic tests that aid the assessment of how badly infected/affected the koala is and consequently determines what the options for treatment are.

Blood tests: which can tell you whether the kidneys are damaged, whether the white cells are active, whether the koala is anaemic and can be helpful in looking for other associated problems also?

PCR: will tell not only whether the koala has an active infection (is positive) but also what species/strain the bacterium is.

Ultrasound: is a useful tool in determining the level of damage to internal organs, such as thickening of the bladder, uterine horns, the bursa surrounding the ovaries (which become filled with material that show up as fluid filled cystic structures), kidney and ureter damage, and whether there is free fluid in the abdominal cavity (an inflammatory response).

Sometimes when these diagnostic tests are occurring, other non related issues can be discovered which can be dealt with at the same time.

Recently when the Hospital was ultrasounding a young female koala, staff had the pleasure of witnessing a joey embryo wriggling around in utero. Judging by the size of the embryo, it was not far off being born. Exciting moments like this when dealing with chlamydial infections are few and far between. Unfortunately the future for a joey born to a mother infected with Chlamydia is not bright.

For many years the Koala Hospital has tried many medications and many treatments for chlamydial infection – none with any startling results. Hence, the need for the three year Sydney University chlamydial research drug trial who are taking things "that one step further". There is still another two field seasons to go (basically another two full years of work) with a large number of people involved in the whole exercise. Even though its early days yet, and we still have a huge mountain to climb, we all remain positive that we will achieve success .

PACIFIC WANDELLA'S STORY.....

I am writing this to tell you all about my experiences at the Koala Hospital

My name is Pacific Wandella, and I usually live in the Shelley Beach area of Port Macquarie. However, I am now incarcerated at the Hospital once again after being on the loose for a week. I was originally caught napping on the 8th July, 2006 when a group of people started looking at me whilst I was basking in the sunshine and taking a nap. They were pointing and looking at my bottom. How undignified and embarrassing!! Before long a truck pulled up and a lady and a bearded gent got out and started unloading gear. Another lady arrived and came over to help them. I thought "this is interesting" and went back to sleep. The next thing I knew a plastic bag on the end of a pole was fluttering round my head and I was just starting to swat that away when another one appeared. What was going on, where had they come from?? I looked down and saw one of the ladies and the bearded gent holding the poles and calling to me to come down. Well, what is a koala to do, when these bags are attacking you? I started to come down only, I hadn't noticed the other lady standing behind the tree with a bag and I went straight down into it!! Someone yelled "A classic rescue!!" and I was sat on someone's lap and whisked off in the truck.

The next time the bag was opened I was in the treatment room at the hospital and another strange lady was looking at my bottom. What peculiar habits these humans have!! I was allowed to pop my head back into the bag until I was offered a nice drink of water or Vytrate as they called it. I then became aware of words like "wet bottom" and "Chlamydia" and was put into a "holding cell" or as they called it, an "ICU". The leaves were very tasty that had been provided for my dinner, and a nice gunyah with white towels provided for my comfort. The main problem of course, was I couldn't get out and visit my girls. You know how it is fellas!! Next day I was given something that made me very sleepy and I understand that whilst I was asleep, the strange lady did embarrassing things in the cloacal area, which I am sure was very undignified but necessary for a diagnosis. Why did they put me out? I am sure I would have cooperated fully! The strange lady with the botty fixation then stuck a needle into me and told me it was for my own good and it hurt her more than it hurt me. Untrue!!

After undergoing needle therapy for a while I was put into an outside yard for "observation", but I am a wily old koala and planned my escape carefully and on the 14th August, I made good my escape and disappeared into the reserve.

This was not my area, so the natives were a little unfriendly and I could not find my way back to Shelley Beach. The local inhabitants made it hard for me to settle so I had to keep moving and was not very happy. After being out for a week I started to make my way back towards the Hospital but became confused by the traffic on Lord Street and was stuck in the middle of the road with people honking and shouting at me. Then a nice old man came up behind me and guided me onto the footpath and up a small tree. He stood and watched me and I had a déjà vu experience as the truck and the rescue team from the Hospital arrived once again. I was bagged and then examined again by the "botty lady". She was not pleased with my botty and it was back to the needles again. This time I am being kept inside but I think I will stay here for a while and get fixed up ready for breeding season and learn how to use these rubber things the botty lady keeps showing me. It will take her a while to teach me how to use them as I am a very slow learner!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Signed....Pacific Wandella.....

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2006-2007 Committee

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<i>Fund Raising</i>	<i>Ian Parsley</i>
<i>AAWK</i>	<i>Wendy Mason</i>
<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Brian Westoby</i>

DID YOU KNOW?

The greater glider’s diet not only comprises mainly eucalypt leaves, but this glider also exhibits similar behaviour to koalas in that they cannot be relocated (locked to a home range and cannot adapt to a new location) and will curl up and die at the base of a tree or where the tree once grew if their habitat is destroyed.

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