THE REHABILITATION OF KOALAS AT THE AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

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AUSTRALIA ZOO WILDLIFE HOSPITAL



Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital

- Opened in 2004; moved to new facility in 2008
- Currently treats up to 7000 patients annually all species
- Average of 70-80 koalas in care at all time (700-800/year) on premises
- Open 24 hours/day; 365 days/year
- Staff
 - 4 veterinarians
 - 15 veterinary nurses
 - 2 admin staff
 - 1 cleaner
 - 4 part-time keepers
 - 1 volunteer coordinator

Many volunteers



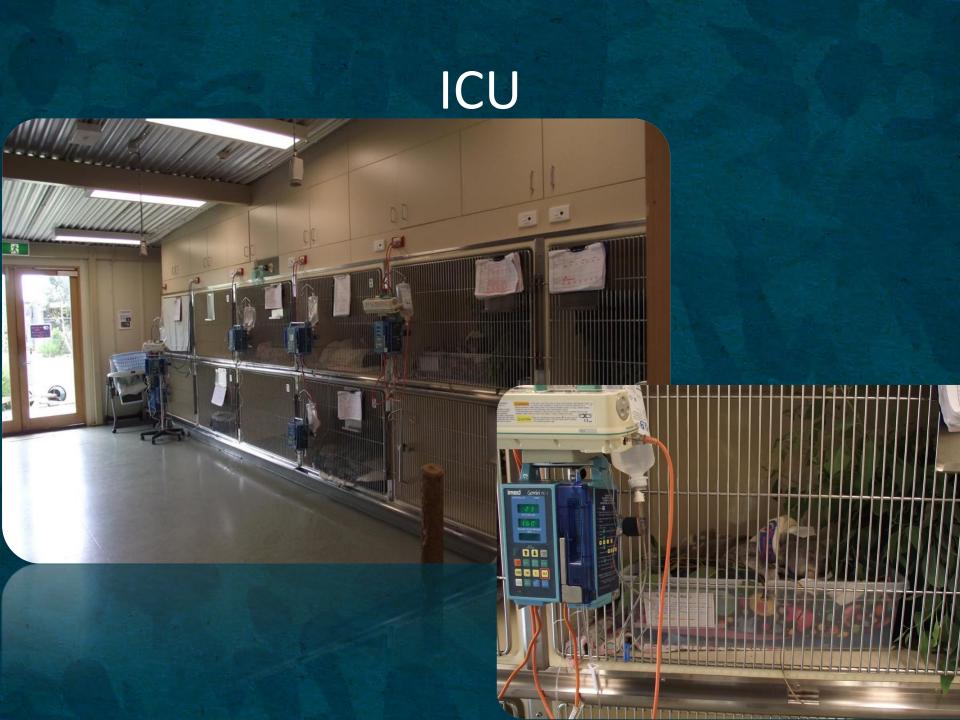


Main Treatment Room



Theatre





Public Gallery



REASONS FOR ADMISSION –

KOALAS

1) DISEASES

- Highest cause for admission
- Past five years has made up
 44% of admissions
- Primarily Chlamydiosis (32%)
- Other Disease processes (12%)
 - Neoplasia, leukemia, renal disease
- Often underestimated as a threat to wild koala populations
- Potentially related to retrovirus (AIDS-syndrome)
- Need more research funding







CHLAMYDIOSIS

Conjunctivitis

Cystitis

Reproductive disease - sterility







Both of these koalas have Chlamydial disease...

Overt disease







VETERINARY DIAGNOSTICS

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High standard of veterinary diagnostics



Blood

Bone marrow

Ultrasound

Urinalysis

Chlamydia Clearview test

Abdo tap

Radiographs



REASONS FOR ADMISSION – KOALAS

2) HIT BY CAR

- Past 5 years has made up 26% of admissions
- Often hit and run
- Often results in major trauma





REASONS FOR ADMISSION – KOALAS

3) DOG ATTACKS

- Past 5 years has made up 10% of admissions
- Easy to miss often no external injuries









REASONS FOR ADMISSION – KOALAS

ORPHANS – to wildlife carers

OTHERS





MAIN LOCATIONS



- Moreton Bay Regional Council 1686 (46.1%)
- Redland Shire Council 347 (9.5%)
- Gold Coast City Council 353 (9.6%)
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council 190 (5.2%)
- Out Of State 267 (7.3%)



AGE GROUPS

Age groups

Age Group (yrs)	% of admission
< 1	5
1-2	13
2-3	12
3-5	33
6-9	25
>10	6
Not aged	6%

Sex Ratio

%male	% female	unsex ed
51	48	1

RELEASES

Approximately 33% of koalas admitted are released





RESEARCH

AZWH is a great resource for researchers: easily accessible pool of animals

Main areas of research:

Chlamydia - male reproductive disease, vaccine

Collaboration with: QUT, UQ, Griffith University, Gold Coast city council, University of Adelaide, University of Sydney, Murdoch university





WHAT WE CAN DO

Slow down on the road at night
Report any injured/sick koala – 1300 ANIMAL
Plant eucalypt trees
Keep dogs inside at night
Donate to the AZWH (Wildlife Warriors)

