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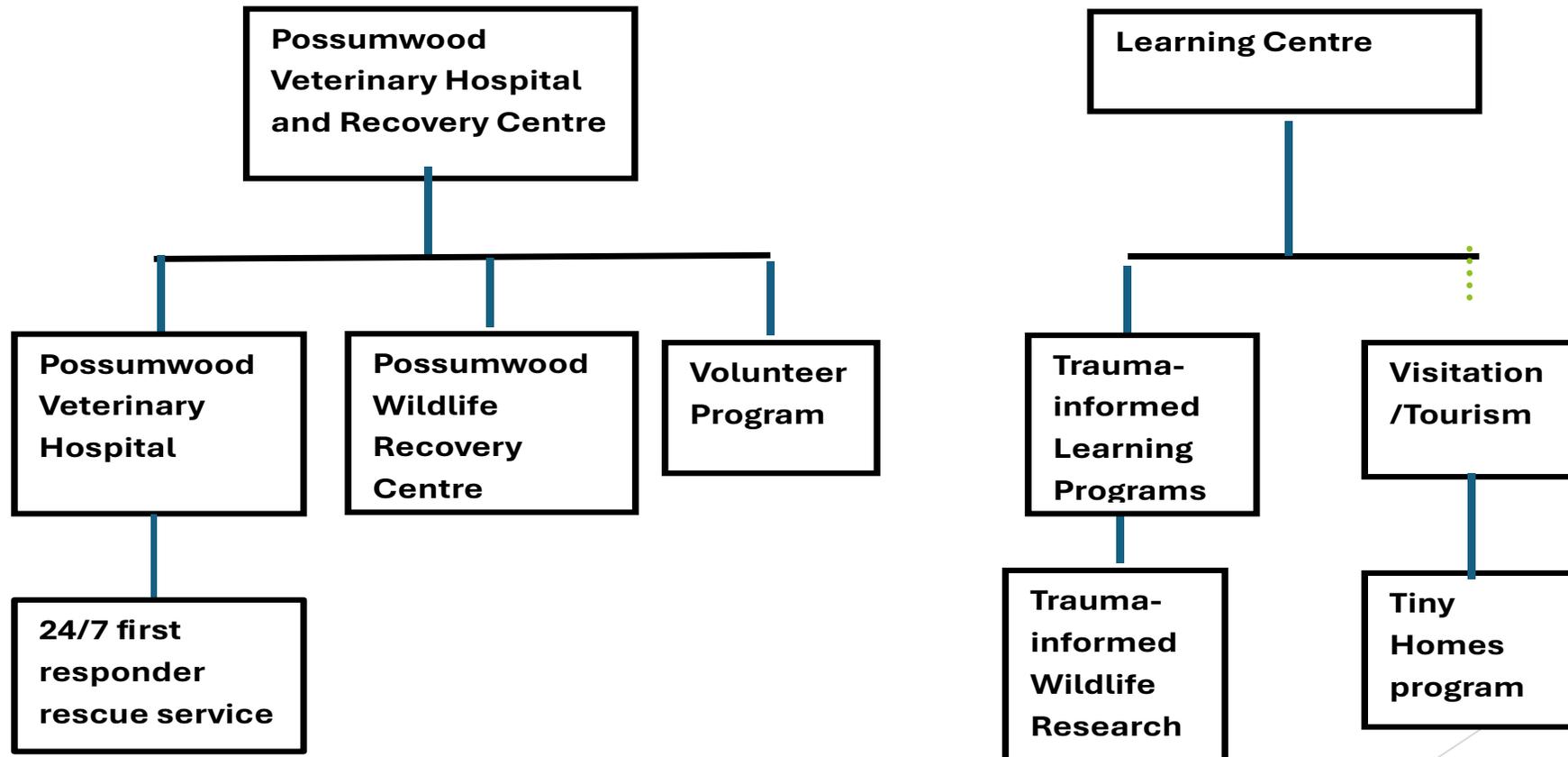
www.possumwood.com.au



VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Possumwood Wildlife: Centre for Trauma
Recovery & Learning

Centre for Wildlife Trauma Recovery & Learning



Who we are

- ▶ Self-funded registered charity with DGR status with 70 members
- ▶ Lake George escarpment on southern tablelands
- ▶ A treatment & recovery facility for severely injured and sick native mammals
- ▶ Totally volunteer based - no paid employees
- ▶ 300km radius impact
- ▶ Licence to rescue, treat, rehabilitate and release wildlife
- ▶ Approx 100 animals in care at any time
- ▶ Approx 100 recovered animals returned to the wild each year
- ▶ Visiting veterinarians and nurses from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne

What we do in summary

Rescue

Rescue native mammals, all ages and sizes, from acute and chronic trauma

Treat

Treat their injuries and illnesses:

- 1/2 fence hangers; 1/4 MVA; 1/4 dog/ fox attack, human harassment, shooting & misadventure
- Emergency first aid, veterinary surgery as needed

Rehabilitation

Manage their recovery through rehabilitation programs

Release

Release them into safe habitat

Undertake & publish

Undertake & publish research to enhance wildlife wellbeing

Training

Run education and training courses

Key History Points

Early Years

New
Initiatives

Black
Summer
Fires

Veterinary
Hospital

Learning
Centre

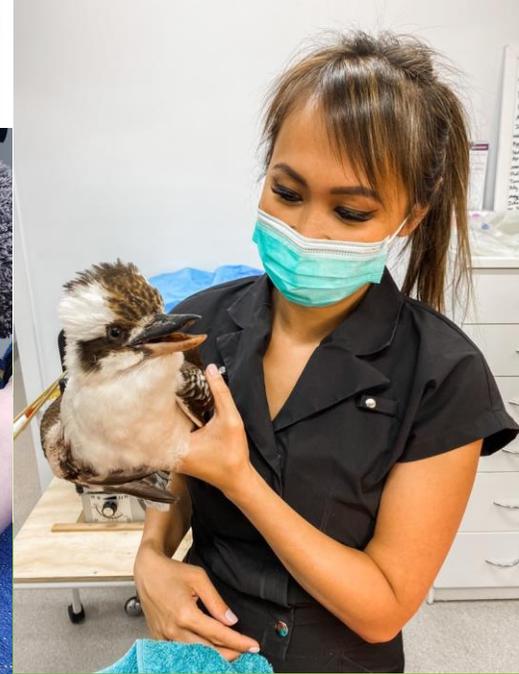


Facilities

- ▶ A unique integrated approach to wildlife trauma recovery
- ▶ Fully licenced veterinary hospital
- ▶ Five indoor recovery wards
- ▶ Nine outdoor recovery enclosures for macropods, wombats and possums
- ▶ 9 acre and a 3 acre pre-release enclosures for macropods
- ▶ 1800 acre release sanctuary
- ▶ Learning centre

Animals treated

- ▶ Macropods,
- ▶ Wombats,
- ▶ Possums,
- ▶ Gliders
- ▶ Koala,
- ▶ Dingoes,
- ▶ Rakali,
- ▶ Kookaburra, Magpie
- ▶ Lizards,
- ▶ Turtles,
- ▶ Echidna



Integrated approach to wildlife trauma recovery



Results

More than 6000 wild animals given a second chance

More than 12,000 wildlife rescues over 22 years

Around 500 each year come into care

500 are treated in the hospital each year

Around 100 are released to a safe habitat each year

Values

Human exceptionalism has no place

Do no harm

Make animals feel safe, loved & respected

Appreciate Wildlife Knowledge Systems

Undertake tran-species learning through engagement

Rescues

▶ Types of rescue

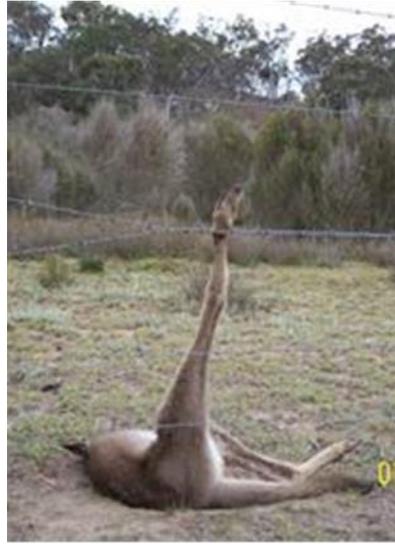
- ▶ Fence entanglement
- ▶ MVA
- ▶ Dog/ fox attack
- ▶ Fire
- ▶ Shooting
- ▶ Human harassment
- ▶ Misadventure

▶ Equipment

▶ Unusual rescues

- ▶ Farm dams
- ▶ Swimming pools
- ▶ Cattle grids
- ▶ Under decking, inside buildings
- ▶ Deep ditches (mine shafts)
- ▶ Narrow pipes
- ▶ Construction fencing

Fence entanglement



Almond's rescue & recovery



MVA



Burns cases



Dog & fox chase/ attack



Chased by two
Maremma



Harassed by
dogs in ACT



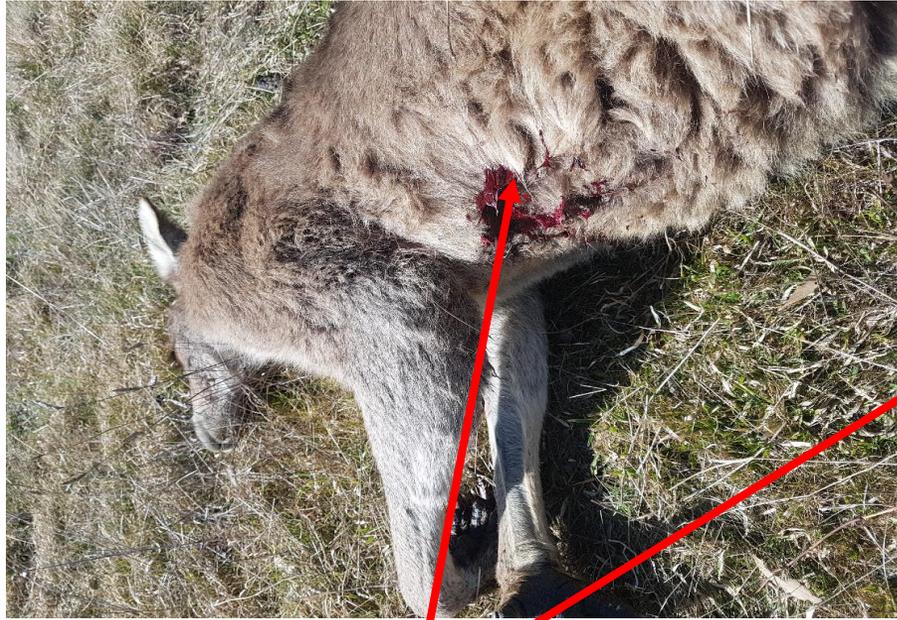
Dog attack



Fox attack



Kangaroo cruelty from shooting - up close



Bullet entry points



Still alive!



Shot
In arm

Misadventure

Hit by golf ball on golf course



Rescue equipment



Treatment

Emergency high level first aid

- Fluids
- Wounds
- Burns
- Splinting
- Antibiotics
- Hypo/ Hyperthermia
- Monitoring (temp, RR, BP, HR)

Veterinary Surgery

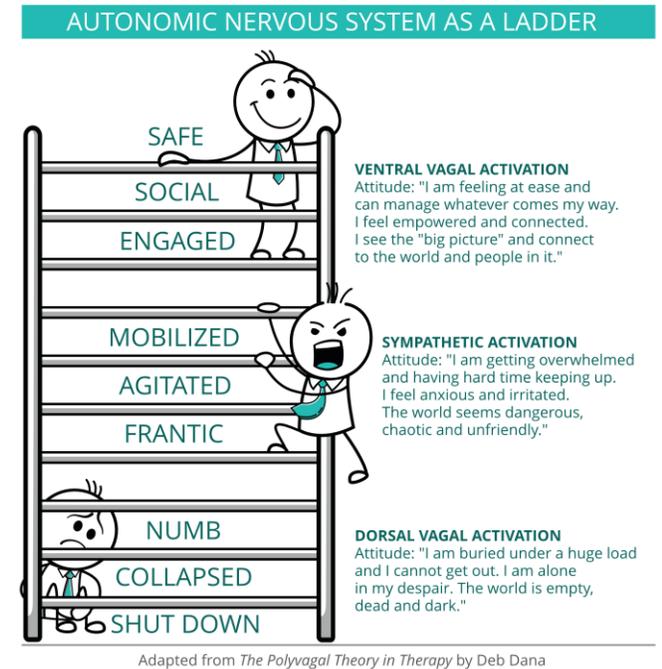
- Anaesthesia
- X-ray
- Ultrasound
- Orthopaedics, Pathology

Vet Surgery



Rehabilitation

- ▶ Monitoring recovery from surgery & emergency first aid
- ▶ Dressing changes
- ▶ Physiotherapy
- ▶ Laser
- ▶ Exercise
- ▶ Stress, Psychotherapy & Autonomic nervous system



Release back to the wild

- ▶ Sedation
- ▶ Quarantine
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Monitoring
- ▶ Open gates



Research

- ▶ Emotions, stress & trauma (biochemical, hormonal, behavioural, microbiome)
 - ▶ Acute trauma
 - ▶ Chronic stress & PTSD
- ▶ Herpes virus
- ▶ Renal failure
- ▶ Mouth & jaw infections
- ▶ Fence injuries & their treatment

A case example of emotional behaviour markers in a wild animal

Neural states	Outward indicators (kangaroo)
Joy (play)	Hooning, kicking legs into the air, boxing with kin, chasing kin, eye expression.
Separation, distress (panic)	Vocal, running into objects in panic, eye expression, erect and extended posture, licking forearms, rapid respiratory rate, flared nostrils.
Nurturance (care)	Preening, embracing kin, body contact, protective behaviour by dominant males
Sexuality (lust)	Courtship behaviour, pairing, long-term male/female friendships
Anger (rage)	Vocal, eye expression, posture
Relaxation	Lying on back asleep, mothers relaxing pouch muscle, mothers allowing small infants to exercise outside pouch

Education and Training

Courses for carers & veterinarians

Workshops

Kids Camps

Podcasts



Volunteers

Endearing pictures





Thank you

