



OUTRAGE: A koala was treated by Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital after being found with seven gunshot wounds.

PHOTO: AUSTRALIA ZOO

‘Let offender spend a day with us in koala hospital’

A VET outraged at the shooting of another koala wants the offender to spend a day at the wildlife hospital so they can see firsthand the suffering they caused.

The call came as she worked on a koala which had been shot seven times and left in the bush for a week before it was rescued by Australia Zoo’s rescue unit at Kippa-Ring near Redcliffe late on Thursday.

The six-year-old male koala, called Fleet, was the fourth animal to be presented to the zoo with gunshot wounds in less than two years.

Wildlife hospital vet Dr Amber Gillett said she feared there were even more being shot that the zoo did not know about.

“I think it is such a cowardly act of cruelty,” she told the Daily.

“Who would target an animal that is just sitting in a tree?”

Yesterday, Fleet underwent surgery to remove some of the slugs that had not gone in too deep.

After being shot in every limb, Fleet is facing two to three months to recover, if he first overcomes a



IN CARE: Veterinary staff treat the injured koala at the wildlife hospital.

leg infection.

Dr Gillett said there was a possibility the koala could lose a leg though he was showing good signs of recovery after eating a half a bucket of leaf overnight.

Recently, the government introduced tougher penalties for shoot-

ing koalas after a baby koala named Frodo was shot 15 times. She took seven months to recover at the zoo.

The maximum penalty is \$300,000 or two years in jail.

To help Fleet, donate at everydayhero.com.au/event/koala

— MARK FURLER