



HELPING HANDS: Dr Amber Gillett, wildlife veterinarian at Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital, keeps a close watch on a heavily bandaged Julius.

PHOTO: AUSTRALIA ZOO

Brave Julius's big battle begins

JULIUS had been living the high life with plenty of food and shelter before development began around his Cashmere home.

The male koala, aged between six and seven years, was brought to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital at Beerwah in a critical condition on Wednesday after being attacked by three dogs behind a north Brisbane property.

Australia Zoo Rescue Unit's Toby Millyard said they had to rescue Julius from high up a tree, where he had clambered to safety.

"From one side he appeared to be okay, but once we moved around the other side of the tree we noticed the massive wound on his foreleg

from where the dogs had attacked," he said.

Wildlife Hospital veterinarian Dr Amber Gillett said the brave koala was in the intensive care unit at the hospital, being administered strong and constant pain relief and antibiotics.

"It is still too early to tell at this stage what Julius's long-term prognosis will be," Dr Gillett said.

"We are assessing him day by day and giving him the best possible care and hopefully he can pull through.

"It will take Julius months and months to recover due to the extensive injuries he has suffered."

— ROXANNE MCCARTY-O'KANE



HOW YOU CAN HELP JULIUS

- The Wildlife Hospital has received more than 60 cases in the past 12 months where koalas have been attacked by dogs
- The koala breeding season is now under way so pet owners should restrain their dogs at night.
- You can donate towards Julius's recovery online at www.everydayhero.com.au/event/koala.