



HOLDING ON: Asha the koala was injured while trying to cross a busy road but staff at the Wildlife Hospital are hopeful he will recover.

PHOTO: AUSTRALIA ZOO

Fingers crossed as Asha clings to life after accident

NOT too many koalas wear singlets but not too many have been through what Asha has been through.

The three-year-old male koala was hit by not one, but two cars, while trying to cross a busy road near Petrie train station, north of Brisbane.

The badly injured 4.9kg bundle was taken to a veterinary surgery and then transferred to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital on July 1, where he was anaesthetised and assessed.

Wildlife veterinarian Doctor Robyn Stenner said the koala was in a "horrific condition" with several fractures to his jaw, toe and ribs, as well as minor facial fractures.

Asha underwent surgery to have a power plate inserted in his lower jaw and stitches in his tongue, which he had nearly bitten through.

A tube was inserted into his stomach because he cannot eat properly at present, and he is on pain relief and on fluids.

A zoo spokesman said staff hoped for a good outcome for Asha, who had proved to be a "tough little guy" so far.

Asha is one of more than 80 koalas in the Wildlife Hospital.

It is the worst time of year for koala admissions, as breeding season means they are on the move looking for new trees and partners, and more likely to meet up with pets and vehicles.

Dr Stenner urged the public to be vigilant when driving in wildlife habitat areas.