Help protect our wildlife this Trauma Season

While many of us are embracing the warm change in seasons, staff at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital are preparing for their busiest, most confronting time of year; a time known as Trauma Season.

As temperatures rise, so too do patient admissions for injuries caused by trauma. The warmer months of the year (namely August to February) see breeding wildlife on the move, making them more vulnerable to injury during the booming holiday season.

Whether they’ve been hit by cars, attacked by domestic pets or orphaned and left to fend for themselves, our wildlife continue to suffer from preventable trauma injuries and it’s hurting our precious wildlife populations one accident at a time.

The impact of Trauma Season is felt heavily throughout the Wildlife Hospital year after year - and this year is no exception! Kathy the koala is among the many animals treated recently at the Wildlife hospital, and while her lovable joey Lewis will grow up under her care thanks to the life saving work of our dedicated vets, nurses and hospital staff, other patients such as Iris and Franky won’t be so lucky.

Iris the red neck wallaby and Franky the koala joey were both admitted to the Wildlife Hospital after being hit by cars, tragically their mothers didn’t survive, leaving these two to face the world on their own. After surgery and rehabilitation, the pair will spend months with a carer; giving them the care and attention they need in the absence of their mum.

Dr Amber Gillett, Senior Veterinarian and Coordinator of Veterinary Research at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital says cases such as these are not uncommon.

“We see countless trauma cases at this time of year, and koalas and their marsupial mates are among the top affected,” said Dr Gillett.

“Kathy was hit by a car with her young remaining unharmed, thankfully after surgery and some dental work, Kathy is recovering well under the watchful eye of her joey Lewis. Franky and Iris are also on the road to recovery, however they felt the full force of Trauma Season, not only losing their mums but suffering from injury themselves,” she said.

“The amount of treatment and care required to bring these animals back to good health is huge. We work around the clock to give the best possible care to each and every patient we see,” she added.

Trauma is one of the leading causes of admission to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, second only to disease. However, unlike disease, it’s something we can all help to treat and prevent.

Every donation helps Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital save the lives of those in need, while safe driving and knowing your pets’ whereabouts can help reduce the potential for trauma injuries occurring in the first place. Keeping your pets indoors or on a lead at night will ensure the safety of many hundreds of wildlife animals each year, as many of these preventable injuries occur at night.

DONATE TODAY: www.wildlifewarriors.org.au
For more information on Trauma Season, visit www.wildlifewarriors.org.au/trauma-season

Photo credit: Ben Beaden / Australia Zoo
Photo one: Koala Kathy and Lewis are on the road to recovery.
Photo two: Iris the wallaby enjoying a feed.
Photo three: Franky the koala joey clings to her teddy bear in the absence of her mum.

Vision credit: Australia Zoo Audio Visual Department
Download video:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/mjvtpm6mtevebi0/Trauma%20Season%202015%20Media%20Release.mp4?dl=0

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