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Baby koala fights for life after dog attack

12:01am May 29, 2012



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LITTLE koala joey Tahlia is fighting a massive battle to survive after losing her mother in a horrific dog attack on the weekend.

The four-month-old koala was rushed to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital on Saturday after her mother was torn apart by a dog near Ballina.

X-rays showed Tahlia was suffering a punctured lung from the attack and had emergency surgery to reinflate her lung.

The sanctuary's senior vet Michael Pyne said the joey, weighing only 207 grams, was battered and bruised and faced a crucial week to pull through after surgery.

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"This is one tough little joey," he said.

"Normally they don't even come out of their mother's pouch until they are six months old but this one is now orphaned and having to recover from a puncture wound to her chest.

"Her lungs were completely collapsed, it is amazing she was still alive."

Mr Pyne said Tahlia was brought in struggling to breathe by a wildlife carer but seemed to be responding well after surgery.

She has now been taken in by a foster carer where she will spend the next two months in a makeshift pouch before being handraised.

Mr Pyne said sadly many koalas were victims of dog attacks after accidentally wandering into backyards.



Tahlia the joey lost her mother in a dog attack in northern NSW and x-rays show her punctured lung as a result of the attack. Pics: Supplied

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