

# Cranky Corky heads for a full recovery after close shave with dogs

Kristin Shorten

CORKY the cranky koala wants to know who let the dogs out.

The bitten, battered and bandaged male underwent follow-up surgery to remove a tube from his skull yesterday after being mauled by a dog at Tallebudgera, in the Gold Coast hinterland, last week.

Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital veterinarian Amber Gillett said Corky was covered in saliva and had sustained critical injuries to the top of his head, base of his skull and abdomen when admitted on Friday.

“He’s a bit of a cranky-pants, which you’d kind of expect if you’ve come across a dog,” she said.

Dr Gillett said the six-year-old’s injuries were the worst the hospital had seen inflicted by a domestic pet.

“He was lucky – if he’d been left any longer (before treatment) he wouldn’t have made it,” she said.

Corky underwent a four-hour operation on Friday to repair the tear in his abdomen and insert a drainage tube into his head.

The tube was removed from the 6.5kg koala, but not before a serious stand-off with Dr Gillett as she tried to anaesthetise him.

“He’s got a very cute personality but he wanted to bite me this morning,” she said.

Dr Gillett said Corky would be tagged and chipped before his eventual release into the wild.



For video of Corky the koala recovering from his surgery, go to [couriermail.com.au](http://couriermail.com.au)

THAT'S BETTER: Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital veterinarian Amber Gillett with Corky after surgery yesterday.

Picture: Megan Slade