

Penny's big break

This is a little story about Penny, one of our Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Penny joined our family when she came into our care as a pinkie a couple years ago. She also has a feature spot on the back page of our O.N.A.R.R. pamphlet.

Penny has a foot problem with a double jointed big toe that the vets and I have tried to set in a cast to straighten out. After several attempts to remedy the crooked toe she has defied our efforts, and gets around just fine as she is.

Earlier this year after being released she joined the mob that reside in the back blocks of ours and our neighbours properties. After several months of not seeing her face, we were excited one day when Penny had returned. When we approached her to say hello we discovered that her forearm was dangling at an odd angle. Penny had returned to show Mum her broken arm and to get our help to fix it we presume.

We did a quick ring around the local vets to get some assistance, but being late on a Sunday afternoon we found the going tough. Lots of offers to euthanize her but none to fix the break. We did find the Vets at Australia Zoo most helpful and they gave us advice over the phone and help with pain medication to get us through the night.

Penny needed help with medication from our local vet to calm her down for the trip, but quickly settled and was still sedated when we arrived at the zoo 30 minutes later. The staff and Vets at Australia Zoo Animal Hospital quickly treated her taking the necessary X-rays and applying a supporting cast. They did a really neat job. I would thoroughly recommend their animal hospital for the service and helpful expertise they showed us. Thank you Steve for having the foresight to provide such a wonderful facility for our animals.

The cast managed to stay on for about a month and she now has no trouble using her limb normally. The only set back was that she thoroughly enjoyed her visit back home being pampered and the centre of attention again. Penny still pops in for a visit and a special tit-bit if she can catch me with those beautiful big brown eyes. We still don't know what caused the broken arm but were pleased that she remembered us enough to know where to come to get help. She hasn't had any more run-in's with whatever caused her to break her limb in the first place and has happily rejoined the mob. We recently saw Big Buck paying her special attention so perhaps we can expect a new arrival in the new year.

Lois Appleton.