



Koala News



Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch
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The Story of Raymond

Episode II

Raymond was found last September beside his dead mother, cold, hungry, shocked and grieving. He was handed in to an experienced carer who was able to stabilise him and start him on the road to recovery before he went to his permanent foster home with a koala carer. There were many potholes and twists and turns on Raymond's road, but he has hung on and is now a fat, happy and much-loved koala.

Until four weeks ago, his future was looking grim. He had not put on any weight for nine weeks so he was not growing, even though he appeared to be happy and well. Feed times were a battle as he had to be coaxed to drink. His foster mum was getting very anxious as some hard decisions would have to be made soon if he continued to stay the way he was.

Fortunately a little switch clicked on in his brain and overnight he started demanding his bottle and draining it with speed and enthusiasm. All of a sudden gum leaves were of great interest, the more the merrier. Not surprisingly the weight started to pile on, and his energy levels started to rise too. Instead of snoozing in his basket for most of the day, Raymond started climbing on to the handle of his basket and swinging like a monkey.

He now climbs out of his basket and races up and down his climbing trees, as well as thoroughly exploring the house he lives in, room by room. You can track his progress by the clicking of his toenails on the wooden floor as well as the little puddles he leaves around. His empire extends to his foster mum's workplace at Cleveland, where he continues to leave his mark on the office floor as well as on the hearts of the staff. At work there is always someone to play with him, cuddle him or feed him gum leaves. He gets so much love, but if someone needs a cuddle he is always happy to oblige.

With his fat, fluffy face and fat, fluffy tummy due to the ongoing weight gain, Raymond's future is looking a lot happier. His foster mother is convinced that by supplying this small, sad, malnourished koala with warmth, safety, food and lots of TLC his body was able to heal the damage from his past and finally enable him to grow and thrive.

Please see the other side of this newsletter to see how being adorable can get you a long way.

Julie Zyzniewski



If you would like to contribute to future editions of the Koala News, please contact Paulette Jones paulette@biodiversity.tv

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