

Possum's progress



CARE GIVER: Tablelands Wildlife Rescue carer Margit Cianelli with a rare lemuroid possum, Leroy. Picture: KYLIE REGHENZANI

He's a rare find but little Leroy is now on the road to recovery

RARE possum Leroy is on his way to recovery.

The lemuroid species is being cared for by Tablelands Wildlife Rescue carer Margit Cianelli from Atherton.

Motorists picked him up from the side of the road about two weeks ago along the Palmerston Highway.

Ms Cianelli suspects Leroy suffered head trauma after a possible fall from a tree.

Kylie Reghenzani

kylie.reghenzani@news.com.au

"These possums never come to the ground so that means some kind of trouble," Ms Cianelli, who has been a wildlife carer for more than 40 years, said.

"They are very arboreal creatures. In my time as a carer I've only ever looked after about three of these kinds of possums."

When Ms Cianelli took Leroy in, he was skinny but is now showing some personality.

"He still needs a lot of survival skills before I let him go in the wild," she said.

"He's still little ... there is not much known about these species but they do sleep together."

"They are closely related to greater gliders which, when together, are known to be aggressive

so I don't know how another male would take to Leroy just yet."

Ms Cianelli has looked after all animals from quolls and echidnas to kangaroos.

"I love all animals," she said. "It is exciting to live on the Tableland because there is such a diverse range of animals to care for."

With the Rescue's new 24-hour hotline, media and promotions spokeswoman Jean Housley said

there were 25 people rostered to help.

"Snakes are a big issue and we get a lot of calls for these reptiles," Ms Housley said.

On July 28 at Tolga, Tablelands Wildlife Rescue will hold a bird workshop at 4 Duncan St for a gold coin donation. The Rescue will also hold workshops on snake removal, frogs and school education. The Rescue's hotline number is 4091 7767.