

**From:** [edgar's mission](http://edgar's mission)  
**To:** [info@edgarsmission.org.au](mailto:info@edgarsmission.org.au)  
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## Merlin -signs of encouragement

Merlin made it through the night! Boy these guys are tough, especially when you consider so many of them come into this world from the hot little oven of their mothers tummy to greet the crisp and bitter frosts of winter. It really is a testament to their resolve that any of them survive.



What follows next is somewhat of a good news bad news story. It was a much brighter little lamb that greeted the vets in the morning. However a thorough examination of his leg, wound and x-rays showed the infection had reached into his leg bones and the break had caused the lower leg bones to shift out of alignment. Any earlier thoughts of pinning the leg were now nigh impossible. But all was not lost. Merlin was heavily sedated, the wound thoroughly cleansed and disinfected then rebandaged. For as long as Merlin's spirits stayed strong so would our efforts to save him.

It was now over to Merlin and the universe. With two penicillin injections a day and one for pain relief I doubted the little fella was going to like me very much over the coming days. He would need to reattend the vet each day to have the dressing changed and infection monitored. Should we be able to quickly arrest the infection his leg would be realigned and put in a cast.



Merlin's recovery is also somewhat hampered by his poor condition which makes finding muscle for an intra muscular injection difficult not only for him but me. I swear it hurts me more than him. But if it means him hating me for this and it helps him pull through it is something I will wear. As Merlin had been struggling on without his mum he has lost the sucking

reflex but not the need for the nourishment of his mother's milk. Thankfully all my past experiences raising orphans in similar circumstances provides me with a wealth of knowledge that will help Merlin. At first syringing the milk down his throat will be difficult but history tells me the little guy will come to not only accept this but look forward to this as a yummy treat. I hope we reach this point quickly as I don't want to add to his discomfort.



As I tuck Merlin down for a rest in his safe and warm little refuge he pops his head up to see me over the side of the enclosure and offers a longing "bah hah hah", it makes my knees go weak...

*"If we could live happy and healthy lives without harming others... why wouldn't we?"*