



GIZMO'S GREAT ESCAPE

If we don't put our rubbish in the bins provided, it can end up in our waterways and harm the animals living there. Please use the bins and help save our wildlife.

In April, 2012, a member of the public sent a photo of an entangled dolphin calf to the Swan River Trust (SRT). The calf was identified as Gizmo.

At first the entanglement was thought to be trailing seaweed until Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) officers realised it was fishing line.



The SRT, DEC, Murdoch and Curtin Universities, as well as the Water Police developed a rescue plan. Gizmo's mother Tupac was very protective and it took more than two months before Gizmo was captured.

In late June, he was spotted by Senior Constable Bruce Rodgers around East Fremantle and the entanglement was clearly visible as he swam under the wharf.

Senior Constable Rodgers and two police divers launched a rigid inflatable. They located Gizmo and followed him to the Swan Yacht Club. The divers entered the water ahead of the dolphins however Gizmo and Tupac dived under them. Constable Brody Baker dived and managed to grab Gizmo bringing him to the surface. They managed to cut the entanglement from Gizmo's dorsal fin. During the rescue, protective mum, Tupac, tried to free Gizmo by grabbing his tail a number of times. She eventually calmed down and the divers managed to swim Gizmo to shallow water.



Gizmo was placed in a stretcher by a DEC officer and the water police to enable Perth Zoo vets to treat his serious injuries. He was then released back into Tupac's care and is now doing well. Unfortunately, his dorsal fin is permanently scarred by the injuries he received from the trailing fishing line.



Rubbish including fishing line is a massive problem in the Riverpark. In 2012, 11 tonnes of rubbish was removed from the rivers! Remember to take your rubbish home and help protect the wildlife who call the Riverpark home.

For more information visit:

www.aaeewa.org.au

www.rowa.org.au/pr_ttrs_pollution.php

www.environment.gov.au/coasts/pollution/marine-debris/index.html

