

Eagle's lucky break

Jamie First

It's not often you see a wedge-tailed eagle in your backyard, but for "Chicken" it was his last hope.

Found at the base of a tree in Mooroolbark, the young bird had a broken wing.

He was rescued by Healesville Sanctuary.

Senior vet Dr Franciscus Scheelings said he was now doing well.

"He was quite thin, in poor body condition and unable to fly because he was so weak," Dr Scheelings said.

Chicken has since fully recovered, but won't be flying into another backyard any time soon.

"He is quite friendly and relaxed. He tolerates being handled by people really well, so we decided he wasn't suitable to be released because he wouldn't cope," he said.

Wedge-tailed eagles are territorial and can live for more than 50 years.