

## **Pioneering keyhole surgery on giraffe**

[Clip from BBC NEWS]

[John Morrison]

This is 'Sapphire' – not yet two – but fairly lucky to be alive. Last October she broke her jaw so badly she was unable to eat. It seemed nothing could be done to save her.

[Sue Gaffing]

When we first were told the news that she'd fractured her jaw we thought they might have to put her to sleep because she wouldn't be able to eat and that was so sad because we didn't want that to happen at all. It was really really upsetting.

[John Morrison]

Unable to face putting her down only months after her mother had died, Sue brought in a veterinary surgeon from Edinburgh University, and X-Rays revealed a break which was repaired by wiring her teeth together through small openings made in her cheek.

This was an extremely tricky operation. The vet is a horse specialist – he'd never done anything like this before. What he was doing was effectively keyhole surgery on an animal that size.

[Patrick Dixon]

It's the only female left in the zoo and the zookeepers are pretty fond of her and they were very very distraught when they come out and it's actually very good that in fact she has survived and hopefully will go on to live a long and happy life here.

[John Morrison]

The broken jaw was working perfectly after the life-saving operation and Sapphire seems very content spending quality time with her dad.