

COALITION OF ANIMAL PROTECTORS

MEDIA RELEASE

CAP BLAMES CULL FOR YET ANOTHER UNCOUNTED KANGAROO DEATH

The Coalition of Animal Protectors (CAP) has blamed government shooting of kangaroos for yet another unintended animal death. CAP is one of several groups that uses the tools of passive, non-violent resistance to hinder Canberra's annual kangaroo massacre.

This morning, members of CAP pulled a drowned kangaroo with a pouch joey out of the dam at Wanniasa Hills Reserve, where shooting was reported to the media last Tuesday, despite the heavy fog.

When the kangaroo was pulled out of the lake, it was found to have abrasions on its front and back legs that would be consistent with having been trapped in the tree branches that were placed around part of the dam a year or so ago (by TAMS) to prevent erosion on the steep sides of the eastern dam wall.

CAP cites the incident as yet another example to vast number of additional, uncounted kangaroo deaths caused by the government cull.

Spokesperson, Robyn Soxsmith explains, "There are plenty of places around the dam where a kangaroo can get out. Kangaroos are excellent swimmers and frequently go into the dam to escape pursuit by dogs. Normally they have no trouble getting out. This kangaroo must have been in a mindless panic to allow herself and her baby to be drowned. The most likely explanation for her unlikely death is that she was trying to escape the shooting at Wanniasa Hills last week."

CAP regards this as just one more example of the thousands of kangaroo and other animal deaths the government's annual slaughter causes - in addition to those actually shot.

Ms Soxsmith elaborates. "At ACAT last year, we heard the government's own witness admit that an entire 'ghost' population of young at foot are left abandoned by the cull every year to starve, be killed by cars or taken by predators.

"Last year, we watched a panicked kangaroo collide with a quarry truck on Mugga Lane – three deaths for the price of one, since that kangaroo had both a pouch joey and a young at foot, neither of which survived.

"Also last year, we found a kangaroo which had failed to clear a reserve fence, and crucified itself on the barbed wire, a frightful death for any creature. Kangaroos jump those fences all the time. Most likely that poor animal misjudged the jump because it was terrified out of its wits by the massacre of its mob."

"Just a week or so ago, another young kangaroo was found dead attempting to crawl under a fence. Crawling under fences is, despite the Minister's apparent ignorance, the normal manner in which young kangaroos circumvent fences. Possibly this youngster had been hit by a car, possibly bludgeoned or knifed by a shooter attempting to dispatch it

'humanely'. Either way, it is another cull-related death not recorded in the government's cull numbers.

"If it was killed by the shooters, it won't be included in their cull numbers because they did not find it and bury the evidence, as they usually do. If it was hit by a car, most likely the animal's death was caused by panic, which was caused by the nearby shooting, and the death of its mother. Once again, not counted in the government's already obscene cull numbers."

No doubt, the government will now try to tell the public that we deliberately drowned this animal, just as Minister Rattenbury tried to claim that we knifed the youngster found dead under the fence, just as Minister Corbell claimed a few weeks ago that we released horses from the horse paddocks at the Rose Cottage adjustment in some bizarre kind of protest, causing them to stampede down main road."

"Thankfully, the people of Canberra are not so utterly and mind-bogglingly stupid as to believe that people who are spending every freezing winter night for three months trying to save animals would ever harm an animal, for any reason," Ms Soxsmith concludes.

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