



# Wildlife Aid Inc

Rescue - Rehabilitation - Release

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008

As Wildlife Aid is solely for rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing our native Australian animals in the Hunter Valley, we fundamentally oppose Kangaroo Harvesting.

However, we know our opposition will hold no weight against determined Government bodies so reluctantly, after extensive in depth discussion between our members, we would suggest a compromise as per the following:

- Wildlife Aid opposes senseless killing of kangaroos for sport and recreation, but acknowledges that a Kangaroo Harvesting/Culling System is required in some areas where population densities are above sustainable levels, or where they are starving due to drought conditions.
- Although distasteful to our group, we feel professional shooters would adopt a more humane approach. They are quick and accurate with their hit, and it is in their best interest not to damage the carcass or skin. They would also not wish to eliminate their source of income by reducing the balance of breeding stock. If their livelihood depends upon kangaroo harvesting, they would abide by rules that govern this.
- The NSW NPWS culling tag system should be abolished altogether as they do not currently have the resources to monitor the conditions of this system. Quite often there is no site assessment to determine the need to cull animals before tags are issued, no seasonal timing to address the developmental stage of pouch young, and there are no requirements or controls in place to assess the shooters skills in identifying species or to ensure a clean and humane kill.
- A royalty system should be introduced for the landholders, as this would encourage them to take an active management role in maintaining a sustainable population density and to only use licensed and accredited trappers. It would also discourage the indiscriminate slaughter by recreational shooters.
- Wildlife Aid oppose the reintroduction of the skin only shooting of Kangaroos, if commercial harvesting is allowed they should be harvested to their full potential including meat and skin – no senseless waste.
- Notification that there will be harvesting activity in specific areas, rather than hearing random unidentified gunshots, leaving behind injured and orphaned defenseless animals.