



MEDIA RELEASE, 26 August, 2010

VETS OFFER HELP TO SAVE MARIA ISLAND WALLABIES

The Australian Society for Kangaroos has offered the Tasmanian government free veterinarian services to carry out a vasectomisation program on the male wallabies and kangaroos on Maria Island Tasmania, in an effort to prevent the ongoing killing of the gentle marsupials.

Last month, in an attempt to initiate more humane, long term alternatives to the government's annual shooting of wallabies and kangaroos on Maria Island, the Australian Society for Kangaroos contacted a list of credible veterinarians, professional wildlife handlers and volunteers, to dart and vasectomise male wallabies and kangaroos on Maria Island, most of whom agreed to be part of the program.

"We have offered the services of veterinarian's, professional macropod handlers, darts men and wildlife volunteers, who have agreed to provide their services free of charge to the Tasmanian government in an effort to put in place long term and humane alternatives to the annual shooting of wallabies and kangaroos on Maria Island", said Nikki Sutterby, Coordinator, Australian Society for Kangaroos.

"Vasectomising the males is not an expensive or complex procedure. The animals can be darted, sedated and then operated on very quickly in the field. The veterinarians and macropod handlers could work in teams over a period of weeks to locate, vasectomise and tag the males. The experienced volunteers could then monitor the animals as they woke from their sedation. This process could then be repeated in six months time. Within a short period, this program could stabilise the kangaroo and wallaby population on Maria Island so that shooting was no longer required", said Ms Sutterby.

PLEASE FIND LETTER OF OFFER ATTACHED.

For more information, contact:

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR KANGAROOS

Representing the Victims of the World's Largest Wildlife Massacre



Australian Society for Kangaroos

'Representing the victim of the world's largest wildlife slaughter'

July 15th 2010

Hon David O'Byrne MP
Minister Environment, Parks and Heritage
Level 2/10 Murray St
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

The Honourable David O'Byrne MP

Thank you for your time.

In relation to the current management of wallabies and kangaroos on Maria Island and the costs, cruelty and community concern involved in the current policy of annual/ bi-annual shooting, we would like to offer an economical and long term alternative.

You may recall our organisation along with the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia having several consultations with your department, as well as making submissions in an attempt to implement a more humane and long term solution to the management of wallabies and kangaroos on Maria Island.

We would now like to offer free professional assistance in implementing a sterilisation/vastectomisation program for the male wallabies and kangaroos on Maria Island National Park. We have had contact with credible professionals with impeccable references including wildlife trained veterinarians, experienced licensed darts men and trained macropod handlers, who have agreed to give their services free of charge to be part of a large scale sterilisation program of the male macropods on Maria Island. We truly believe that this process could provide a low risk, successful, long term and positive outcome for the macropods on this island, as well as the stakeholders and the general public.

We would be very pleased if you would consider our offer and contact us if you require any clarification or if you wish to discuss this further. We would be delighted to be able to work together and provide a sustainable solution to this most difficult issue.

Many regards,

Nikki Sutterby- CoOrdinator
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