

Australian Society for Kangaroos

MEDIA RELEASE

Roo puncher cruel killer

The viral video of Taronga Zoo keeper Greig Tonkins filmed punching a kangaroo has exposed the video “star” as a cruel and sadistic hunter with no regard for animals or their suffering.

The unedited footage of a pig hunting trip where Greig Tonkins was filmed punching a male kangaroo has also exposed the barbaric and insidious practice of pig hunting in Australia in which Greig Tonkins is heavily involved.

Nikki Sutterby, President of Australian Society for Kangaroos said today that: “Contrary to protests by his mates, the unedited video reveals Tonkins is not 'a placid bloke' or 'animal lover' but a heartless killer who is filmed jumping on a pig and stabbing it to death while his dogs maul the defenseless animal and drag it by the ears. Tonkins is also filmed leaving a helpless baby joey for dead after it falls from its mother's pouch and gets caught in a fence”.

“ASK is calling on Taronga Zoo to immediately suspend Mr Tonkins while this footage is investigated by the RSPCA. This man is no hero or animal lover and should not be allowed the privilege of working with precious wildlife. This footage shows he is a sadistic killer with no compassion or regard for any animal.”

Please find below further info about the now famous hunting trip.

If you would like a copy of the DVD they can be purchased from newsagents or we can send you a copy. In the meantime we can provide you with a snippet of the hunting trip in a short promotional video by Bloom Brothers. We also have various still shots of Tonkin's stabbing the pig, the baby joey caught in the fence and young children riding on the back of utes during the trip.

Thanks for your interest in this story.

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MORE INFO:

The entire video and magazine titled Boar Catchin Action by Bloom Brothers is on sale in newsagents and exposes the brutal underworld of pig hunting and zoo keeper Greig Tonkin's involvement.

The entire hunting weekend which included the kangaroo punch, was filmed by Greg Bloom, Greig Tonkin's mate, who also owns "Bloom Brothers, Get Amongst It Productions" a DVD production company that produces horrific hunting videos for commercial sale, and the hunting magazine "Boar Catchin Action".

The kangaroo punch incident was filmed from the moment Tonkin's dogs jump off the ute in what appears to be their pursuit of the kangaroo. The men turn the ute around after which you see multiple dogs at the scene and the kangaroo looking extremely stressed and exhausted, evident by his wet paws and rapid heavy breathing. It is likely that the male kangaroo was trying to protect his mob which were probably nearby, and had already fought off multiple dogs before grabbing Tonkin's dog. With the cameras still rolling, the kangaroo immediately lets go of the dog, but Greig punches the kangaroo, then turns his back on the kangaroo while pulling a knife out of his pocket.

Greig Tonkins was filmed jumping on a pig and stabbing it to death while his dogs maul it by the head and drag it by it's ears through the mud, all while his friends laugh on the sidelines.

Greig was also filmed abandoning an injured baby joey who had fallen out of it's mother's pouch. The men were driving at high speed alongside the female kangaroo when she dropped her joey in distress. Her joey is filmed getting caught in a fence then landing on the road and doing somersaults in a desperate attempt to get away. Tonkins then gets out of the ute to pick up his hat, but drives away leaving the joey by the side of the road, injured and helpless.

Tonkins is on the committee of the Australian Pig Hunters and Doggers association and is also a zoo keeper at Taronga Open Plain Zoo in Dubbo. He is also possibly a kangaroo shooter and was on the Roo Shooting Facebook page but took his name off when the story hit the media.

Footage taken during the hunting trip also showed very young children riding on the back of utes with dogs while being driven through the bush. These children appear to witness the horrors of the trip where dogs are let loose on pigs and allowed to maul the pigs by their head and legs as they try desperately to get away. The men then jump on the pigs and stab them to death.

The dogs can chase and attack the pigs for some time before the men eventually find the pigs, causing horrific trauma and prolonged suffering for the defenseless animals.

Other footage on the DVD shows a kangaroo being shot while mating with another kangaroo.

The footage also shows trucks full of dead kangaroos without tags, raising questions as to whether these kangaroos were killed illegally.

The footage also shows multiple baby pigs in pens on a property. They are possibly being bred so the men can teach their dogs how to kill.

We are advised that these men are now under investigation by the RSPCA for what has been shown in the video.

The story can be found across multiple media sites with Tonkins hailed as a hero who loves animals.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/lifestyle/home-garden/expert-surprised-by-kangaroo-putting-dog-in-a-chocker-hold/news-story/deeofb270c3556f970c1aff7a6e6fed>