

SPECIAL REPORT ABOUT WILDLIFE TRADE

CAN YOU KEEP LOOKING AWAY?



It happens every night, in every state and its methods are hidden. Australia's unique wildlife and Indigenous Dreaming Totem is slaughtered for pet food, meat and skins, much of it exported.

Behind clean, green consumer marketing, lies carnage and a disturbing workforce. Unethical, unhealthy, unhygienic, unmonitored, and unsustainable.

Country killings — possibly on land near you — city profits.

Take a look.

The following images and words were posted on the internet by kangaroo shooters in Australian states or by their associates.

They were independently accessed and provided to the Australian Wildlife Protection Council (AWPC) as evidence of what goes on in the nightly killing fields; how the meat — that is promoted to consumers as healthy human and pet food — is shot and handled; and what kangaroo shooters think about consuming kangaroo meat.

This dossier was compiled by the AWPC as a public education document.



**Australian Wildlife
Protection Council**
A voice for wildlife

WHILE THE WORLD loves Australia's unique wildlife and Skippy the bush kangaroo has captured the heart of millions, Australia still turns away from the news and the reality that the national icon — the kangaroo species — face disrespect, torment and slaughter every night in the killing fields that cover every state.

Thousands of kangaroos and wallabies die every month — a free 'supply' for a bloody commercial trade, encouraged by some landholders, possibly in a locality near you.

The shocking evidence given to AWPC shows kids are taken to the killing fields, to watch, learn and help.

Missing a clean headshot from a distance, at night, means some victims escape to die slowly of gunshot wounds. Dependent joeys, if not bashed to death out of the pouch or shot, face hunger and predators alone, an uncertain future.

We see the national icon is butchered in the field, bushmeat essentially, loaded in eye-opening, unhygienic conditions often together with feral pigs. Storage of bodies crammed together in a paddock 'chiller' can last for several weeks before delivery to a processor, destined for either the pet food trade or, as the industry promotes, for human consumption and the leather and fur trade.

We hear today's 'roo shooters — some of whom appear to have made these killings family affairs — say what they think about kangaroo meat and its "worms".

This secret trade has gone on for 50 years and longer, with governments' unqualified support while ordinary Australians have been sold a 'must have' economic narrative that justifies the brutality going on in their name.

Take a look at the recent evidence from the killing fields provided by an undercover informant from a social media source.

Australian family business:

Kids on the killing fields





“ Only way to have roo is ... dead and hung on the back of a ute.



Eating kangaroo or feeding it to pets: comments from shooters on a chat site in 2021 about their catch and 'worms'

“ I'll never eat it again, between the worms and the abscesses, only because I was a roo skinner...that was it for me



“ I wouldn't eat that. Eastern maybe, blue flyers yes, but not western greys



“ Don't the worms die as soon as they hit the cold air?

“ How do you deal with the worms when you feed ur dogs ... Boil it first?

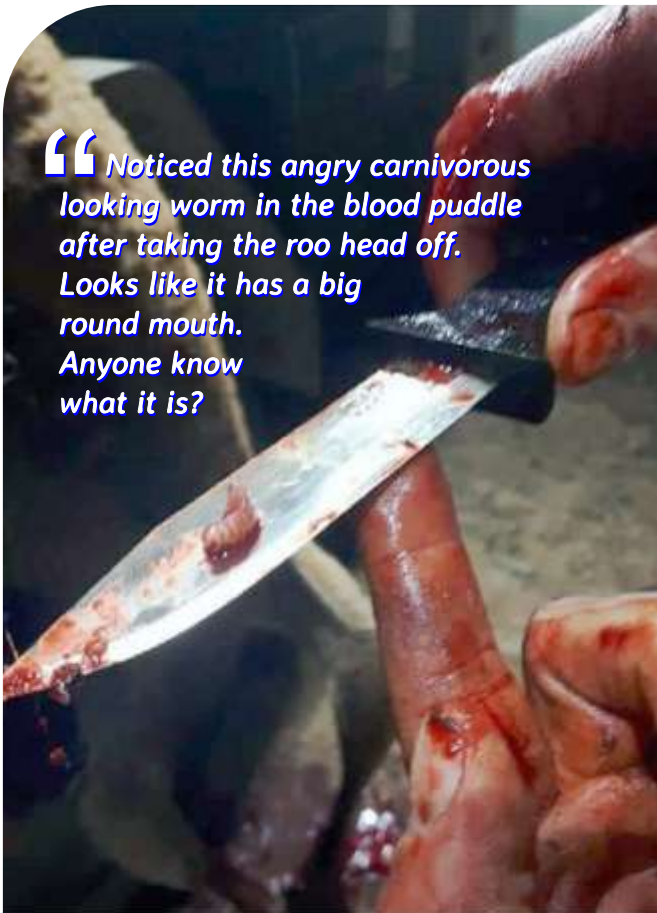


“ I only take the younger females to eat. The males go to the dogs.

“ Throw it in a slow cooker with a rock and when the rock is tender, throw it away and eat yr boot...

**Hygiene/germs on killing fields:
cramped storage, old blood and dirt, mixed species, defy meat standards**





“ Noticed this angry carnivorous looking worm in the blood puddle after taking the roo head off. Looks like it has a big round mouth. Anyone know what it is?



Parasites found in kangaroo liver by shooter



“ I have been around roos my whole life and shot them for years. No way will I eat it.

Happening next door: images from Dunkeld, Victoria



“ The old worms aren't dead in the middle there.



**Tasmanian
wallaby hunt:
for mainland
pet food**





Fate of joeys

CAN YOU LOOK AWAY?

Join with the Australian Wildlife Protection Council (AWPC) and many Australians to halt the nation-wide brutal killings ...



*Reconcile,
respect, and
share the land
with our unique
and precious
wildlife*



#Co-existence

APPENDIX

Where do the Tasmania wallabies, hunted with dog and gun as shown in the previous images, end up?

An answer came from the **NSW government Inquiry into the health and well-being of kangaroos and other macropods in NSW**. Findings released mid-October 2021.

The CHAIR: Mr Brill, has the Government agreed to import Bennett's wallabies from Tasmania to process here in New South Wales? Does that ring a bell?

Mr BRILL: The Government does not import kangaroos for processing at all.

The CHAIR: Have you approved the importation of Bennett's wallabies though from Tasmania to process by, I think, the Staughton Group?

Mr BRILL: Importation of Bennett's wallabies is quite legal, yes.

The CHAIR: So that has been agreed even though we do not have that species within the New South Wales commercial harvest management plan.

Mr BRILL: We have the species in New South Wales. It is not in the commercial harvest program. Correct.

The CHAIR: That is all above board according to our Biodiversity Conservation Act, is it, for us to be able to approve the importation of Bennett's wallabies from Tasmania to process here?

Mr BRILL: Yes.

The CHAIR: You gave that permission this year.

Mr BRILL: I did not need to give that permission. The licences were actually amended to make sure that was legal. There was never any—

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Who amended the licences?

Mr BRILL: I did.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: So there is an approval process, essentially, that you signed off on.

Ms ERRINGTON: It is allowed under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: Sure, but there had to be a decision made to allow this to occur.

Mr BRILL: There was a decision made to make sure that it was legal under their licences, yes.

Link to full Inquiry:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2707#undefined>

We asked ourselves who is the Staughton Group in NSW?

Here they are.

The screenshot shows the Staughton Group website with the following content:

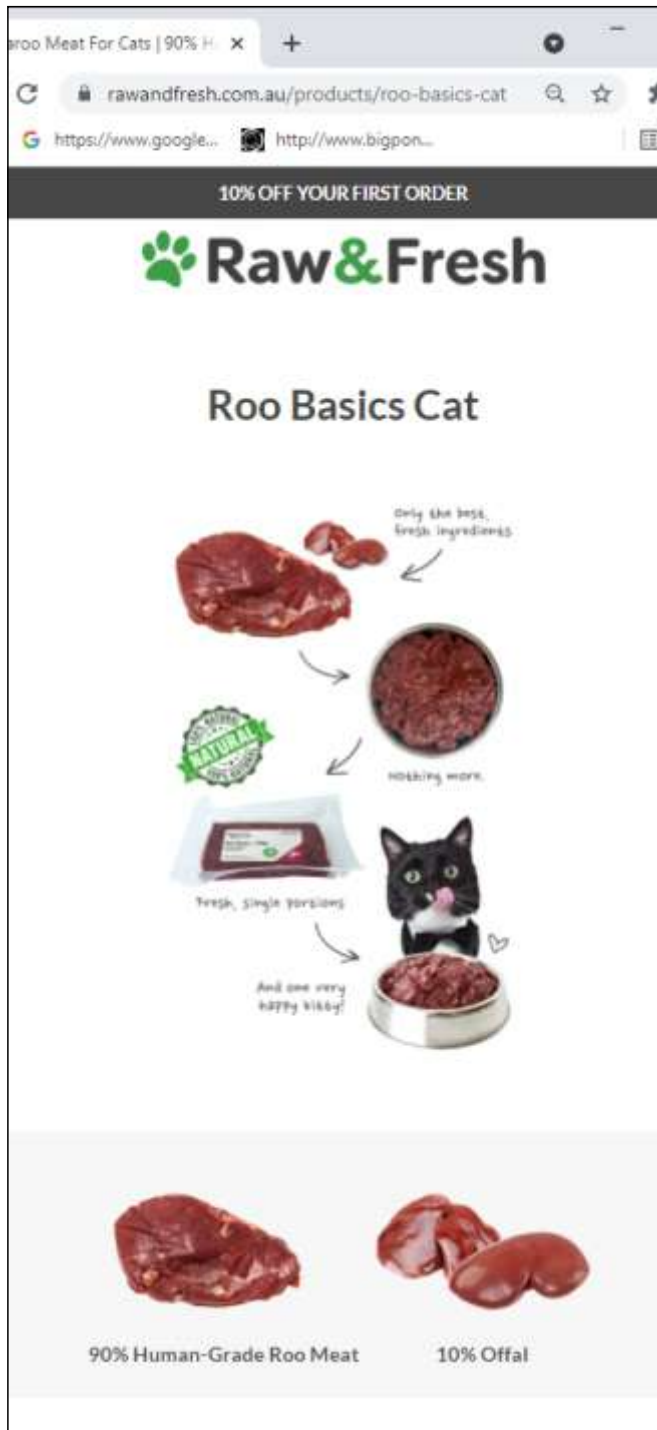
- Header:** StaughtonGroup logo and navigation menu (Home, About Us, Careers, News, Contact).
- Section: Our brands**
 - Open Paddock:** Ethical and sustainable. Know what goes into your pet food. With QFS codes and Country of Origin labels on our packs you can see the source of every ingredient. Ethically and sustainably sourced with higher welfare meat including RSPCA Approved chicken and ASC certified salmon. Healthy, natural food and treats for pets. [Visit the site](#)
 - Balanced Life:** Premium air dried raw food & treats. A holistic range of pet foods and treats. Balanced Life marks a return to a natural diet that's packed full of premium Australian meat, enriched with superfoods like kelp, shiloh, coconut and cranberries, and delivered naturally - gently air dried to lock in maximum nutritional value. Just add water for the best dog food there is. [Visit the site](#)
 - Vets All Natural:** A leading holistic pet food brand. Vets All Natural is a dog and cat food, treats and supplement brand unlike any other. Founded in 1995 and a pioneer in natural raw, holistic diets for pets, our goal is simple: give your pet the very best natural nutrition they need to live the longest, healthiest and happiest life they can. [Visit the site](#)
 - Aussie Pet Health:** Healthy, natural treats. Aussie Pet Health is a retail brand of Australian treats available in major pet retailers. The treats are made from meat and bones sourced from human grade facilities in Australia, no artificial flavours or preservatives, no deep frying, smoking, chemical drying or artificial processing. Just 100% Australian, dried pet treats that are completely natural. [Visit the site](#)

Look down any big supermarket pet food section and online to find other companies that claim their products contain kangaroo:



IMAGE SOURCES: ONLINE SHOPPING WEBSITES

Mainland kangaroo families — hunted in every state in the ways shown in this dossier — are offered as pet food on the internet by companies like the following touting a 'healthy' alternative.



Rawandfresh.com.au sells the above 'meals'; promotes kangaroo for pet health with recipes.

Overseas: blood-soaked soccer boots



Killing for kicks

Nike's kangaroo-leather soccer shoes drive massive wildlife kill in Australia's Outback
Wayne Pacelle | February 12, 2021

By a long shot, the public-private scheme to kill kangaroos in Australia is the biggest commercial slaughter of native wildlife in the world. Despite all the pretense and rationalizations hitched to it by proponents of this open-air slaughter, it's motivated by profit and the trade in their body parts.

U.S. Representatives Salud Carbajal, D-Calif., and Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Penn., this week introduced the Kangaroo Protection Act to ban the sale of products made from kangaroos in the United States. The bill aims to curb the killing of two million kangaroos a year in the Australian Outback, mainly for the skins used by Nike, adidas, Puma, and other companies for manufacturing soccer shoes ("cleats"). Sold throughout the world and known as "football boots," the U.S. is the second-largest market, behind only the European Union.

The bill introduction comes just days after the Center for a Humane Economy and the Animal Wellness groups released a short film, by Hollywood filmmakers Gavin Polone and Derek Ambrosi, to expose one of the least-known assaults on native wildlife in the world. Using reverse sequencing, the film starts with a soccer player kicking a goal and ends with a kangaroo about to be killed in the wild, tracing the distinct, connecting steps in between.

READ UPDATED STORY HERE:

<https://kangaroosarenotshoes.org/2021/02/nike-killing-for-kicks>



AUSTRALIA'S SHAME

Shooting of sentient animals in the wild, even if the kill rate is 100% (no wounding), is not an acceptable method of despatch. Shooting of any sentient animal is a last and only way of alleviating suffering if no other more humane means are at one's disposal. That is the only code of conduct that is acceptable to a humane society.

Humans use guns in war when the 'enemy' also has guns. Humans who shoot other humans who do not have guns are either called murderers or psychotic. The reason humans have this code of conduct is that guns are the last choice action of escalating brutal behaviour. It is our warring nature that has given us guns and it is obscene and totally wrong to use our warlike nature and guns against creatures that can suffer in a similar manner to ourselves and who cannot protect themselves.

That Australia is shooting kangaroos en masse at all is bad enough, but to be doing so without concrete justification, is a mega-crime against the planet.

Of course, shooting from a distance does cause wounding and it always will, even if the skill of the shooter is as good as it can get. Add this to the inherent cruelty to thousands of joeys, and we will all have to wonder how low a society can go. What is the depth of outrageous behaviour that humans will accept without question? History, past and present, suggests this to be bottomless.

The questions are, and I pose them in a purposefully blunt manner:

How long will Australians be beguiled by fantasies about the outback that allows them, at best, to accept a non-knowing and non-caring apathetic approach to happenings beyond the suburbs, and at worst, as it is, displaying to the rest of the world, an overtly cruel, imbecilic stupidity befitting a people with no interest in their own marvelous country and its unique inhabitants?

How long will Australians give carte blanche, brutal, despotic control over our very sentient wildlife, to a small number of old-world, compassionless, economic, political and pseudo-scientific dinosaurs, who are capable of convincing themselves of anything when their own advancement is at stake?

Will you, the reader, put up with the above descriptions or will you disassociate yourselves from them by utilising every legal means possible to mend the horrendous wrongdoing of the mass suffering and slaughter of the kangaroo?

The kangaroo is a unique species and other world examples are not relevant to how we manage it.

Leaders must take a leap of faith into the future and come to grips with the old world values that now control the destiny of this wonderful animal, and in doing so, set an example to the world that we have come of age and maybe they should also.

**David Nicholls
(ex-kangaroo shooter)
Weetulla, South Australia**

Source: Australian Wildlife Protection Council newsletter June 2001



The brutal slaughter continues...

Western Victoria, January 2022

Eyewitness experience of commercial kangaroo shooting and treatment of Australian visitors in a tourism-related community near a national park.

Evening — 9pm and later

“ A horror night last night. Opposite side of the road to where we are staying, they came to mop up the remaining few — the shooter, accompanied by a Game Management Authority person threatening us with a \$16,000 fine just for being there — walking on a public road in a tourist precinct.

They asked for our identification and said it was too dangerous for us to be there. The emu we had been filming was so frantic he jumped the fence and squeezed in between us as we walked down the road, sheltering the emu from the fear and bullets. The shooting was across an unused paddock with tall grass.

What is happening here is not unusual in Victoria as the commercial industry has expanded and operates close to residences. The shooter returns again and again. The 10 percent they shoot — they say they shoot — appears for a time to be almost all of them. There are body parts from the field butchering left behind houses. The people who live here or run tourism businesses suffer distress and fear. There is also the danger from bullets. And those poor little animals.”



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