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March 25, 2026

**Judicial Proceedings Committee
HB 53 Nondomesticated Animal Prohibitions – Alterations
FAVORABLE**

On behalf of Humane World for Animals and our supporters across Maryland, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 53.

HB 53 advances public safety and animal welfare by amending Md. Code, Criminal Law §10 - 621 to include the prohibition of the private possession of zebras, kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos in Maryland. Our law already prohibits private ownership of numerous dangerous wild animals, including bears, nonhuman primates, wild cats, and certain venomous snakes. HB 53 is a simple, targeted expansion of that framework.

Current Maryland law contains, and this bill continues to provide, generous exceptions for licensed facilities and others to continue to own and maintain these animals. These include an exception for animal exhibitors maintaining a USDA Class C license, those whose business involves the showing or displaying of animals to the public. The bill grandfathers existing private owners who possess covered species prior to the bill's effective date, allowing them to keep those animals under current ownership. However, it prevents future acquisition, breeding, and sale by private individuals, unless permitted under one of the exemptions under existing law.

The goal of HB 53 is to responsibly end the proliferation of these wild animals in private, unqualified homes, where owners often lack the experience, facilities, and oversight necessary to safely and humanely care for them.

Public safety risks are real and recurring

Zebras are wild, nondomesticated animals with unpredictable behavior; they can bite and kick with force sufficient to break bones and cause internal injuries. Unsuspecting people, including owners of these animals, have been seriously harmed. For example, in 2023, a 72-year-old man in Ohio was hospitalized after his arm was almost bitten off by a zebra he kept as a pet. The zebra was highly agitated and charged at police, fire crews, and members of the man's family before police shot and killed the animal. In 2025, a zebra in Tennessee escaped one day after being brought to a new property as a pet. The animal was loose for a week, ran through traffic on both sides on the interstate highway (causing it to be shut down), and was eventually captured and airlifted via helicopter and returned to the owner's property - events not only stressful to the animal, but also highly risky to the public and law enforcement.

In Maryland, this danger is not theoretical. In 2021, between three and seven zebras escaped from a farm owned by a USDA-licensed breeder and roamed through residential neighborhoods in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Over four weeks later, one zebra was found dead with their leg caught in a snare trap just outside of the owner's property. Two zebras remained at large for nearly four months before being recaptured in December 2021. Reports varied as to the number of animals who escaped. The Prince George's County Animal Services Division and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources were involved in efforts to locate and recapture the animals. The USDA, which enforces the federal Animal



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Welfare Act (AWA), issued critical citations to the owner, Jerry Holly, for violations of the federal law in relation to the escapes and death. In 2023, Holly's AWA license was revoked, and he agreed to transfer ownership of all regulated animals and pay \$15,000 to settle allegations of violations of the federal law.

Escapes and attacks by macropods (kangaroos and wallabies) are on the rise. At least 83 kangaroos, wallaby or wallaroo escapes have been documented across 25 states since 2015, with nearly half apparently kept as pets. These incidents create repeated risks to motorists, first responders, and nearby residents. Kangaroos can stand over six feet tall and weigh up to 200 pounds; wallabies can reach three feet tall and weigh 30–60 pounds. Both can deliver powerful kicks and deep lacerations with sharp claws. Adult male kangaroos may perceive people, again, including even the owners of these animals, as rivals and attack, leading to serious or even fatal injuries. In 2025, law enforcement believed that a [South Carolina man was killed](#) from multiple blunt force injuries from fighting a kangaroo in an enclosure at an unlicensed petting zoo. In 2017, a [nine-year-old girl in Alabama required 14 stitches](#) after she was attacked by a kangaroo at a roadside zoo. The animal reached through the enclosure fence, grabbed her by the hair, and bit her on the head. In 2011, an animal handler in Ohio was transported by MedFlight and hospitalized after he was attacked for 15 minutes by a 6-foot, 200-pound male kangaroo. Young and small wallabies also injure people: adults and children have been bitten, scratched, and jumped on by macropods used in encounters.

We track media- and government-reported dangerous incidents with wild animals, and a selection of recent, dangerous incidents and escapes involving zebras, kangaroos, wallabies, and wallaroos are listed in the Appendix.

Animal welfare concerns are significant

Beyond the public safety risks associated with the private possession of wild animals, the environments in which people come into close contact with these animals can spark interest in keeping these species as pets. Allowing the public to interact with wild animals in a captive setting not only causes stress to the animal; it inspires people to obtain wild animals as pets.¹ Studies have shown that close encounters with wild animals, including bringing them to events and sharing images of people interacting with them, fuel the exotic pet industry.²

¹ Lenzi, C., Speiran, S., & Grasso, C. (2019). "Let Me Take a Selfie": Reviewing the Implications of Social Media for Public Perceptions of Wild Animals. *Society & Animals*.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332319931_Let_Me_Take_a_Selfie_Reviewing_the_Implications_of_Social_Media_for_Public_Perceptions_of_Wild_Animals; Cronin, K. A., Leahy, M., Ross, S. R., Schook, M. W., Ferrie, G. M., & Alba, A. C. (2022). Younger generations are more interested than older generations in having non-domesticated animals as pets. *PLoS ONE*, 17(1), e0262208. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0262208>;

Nekaris, B. K. A., Campbell, N., Coggins, T. G., Rode, E. J., & Nijman, V. (2013). Tickled to Death: Analysing Public Perceptions of 'Cute' Videos of Threatened Species (Slow Lorises – *Nycticebus* spp.) on Web 2.0 Sites. *PLoS ONE*, 8(7), e69215. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0069215>;

Waters, S., Setchell, J. M., Maréchal, L., Oram, F., Wallis, J., Cheyne, S. M., The IUCN Primate Specialist Group, Section for Human-Primate Interactions, Brooke Aldrich, Sherrie Alexander, Liana Chua, Tara Clarke, Malene Friis Hansen, Carolyn Jost-Robinson, Kimberley Hockings, Marni LaFleur, Lucy Radford, Erin Riley, & Amanda Webber. (n.d.). *Best Practice Guidelines for Responsible Images of Non-Human Primates*. <https://www.arcusfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Best-Practices-for-Responsible-Images-of-Nonhuman-Primates.pdf>; Clarke, T. A., Reuter, K. E., LaFleur, M., & Schaefer, M. S. (2019). A viral video and pet lemurs on Twitter. *PLoS ONE*, 14(1), e0208577. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208577>;

Alex, B. (2012). No more cuddly selfies with our ape cousins, top conservation body warns scientists: New rules are meant avoid misleading the public about wild animals. *Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abg6546>

² Freund, C. A., Cronin, K. A., Huang, M., Robinson, N. J., Yoo, B., & DiGiorgio, A. L. (2023). Effects of captions on viewers' perceptions of images depicting human-primate interaction. *Conservation Biology*, 38(3). <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14199>; Cronin, K. A., Leahy, M., Ross, S. R., Schook, M. W., Ferrie, G. M., & Alba, A. C. (2022). Younger generations are more interested than older generations in having non-domesticated animals as pets. *PLoS ONE*, 17(1), e0262208. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0262208>; Moorhouse, T. P., Balaskas, M., D'Cruze, N. C., & Macdonald, D. W. (2016). Information could reduce consumer demand for exotic pets. *Conservation Letters*, 10(3), 337–345. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12270>



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Private possession and commercial breeding of wild animals is not “conservation.” Genuine conservation is aimed at species recovery in the wild, addressing habitat loss and other threats. When breeding is used for conservation purposes, it is done through coordinated, science-based programs designed to support reintroduction and long-term genetic health, not to supply the pet trade.

Kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos are readily available for sale online from wild animal breeders and dealers and at animal auctions. These animals suffer in the pet trade. Joeys (baby kangaroos, wallabies, and wallaroos) are often removed from their mothers prematurely, which can cause lifelong psychological and physical harm. In 2022, the Pennsylvania Game Commission reported that [a 6-month-old kangaroo offered for sale illegally online](#) for \$5,000 was found wrapped in a blanket and stashed inside a closet when it was seized by officials. In captivity, kangaroos require specialized diets and are vulnerable to serious ailments such as “lumpy jaw,” gastrointestinal obstructions, predator attacks, salmonellosis, obesity, pneumonia, and toxoplasmosis (which has killed dozens of kangaroos and wallabies and can also affect humans).

Zebras are not raised or kept for human consumption, for riding, or for draft power or farm labor, and breeding them for sale and commercial trade dangerously increases the population held in private hands. More so than domesticated equids, zebras are [susceptible to capture myopathy](#), a stress-induced disease that can result in severe muscle damage or death when they experience extreme fear or struggle, especially during capture, restraint, transport, or handling. Zebras’ extreme stress response [was shaped by their evolution in environments with many, large predatory species](#).

Unlike licensed facilities that are subject to the federal Animal Welfare Act, private owners are unregulated and uninspected, leaving animals in potentially substandard conditions.

HB 53 builds on Maryland’s precedent and supports law enforcement

By extending Maryland’s existing dangerous wild animal law to include zebras, kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos, HB 53 will aid law enforcement and protect communities by ensuring these species are kept only by licensed, regulated entities. This is a measured, common-sense step consistent with the legislature’s past determinations about inherently risky species.

For the reasons above, Humane World for Animals respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 53. This bill advances Maryland’s longstanding commitment to public safety, responsible stewardship and humane treatment of animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacey Volodin
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Appendix

Selected dangerous incidents with zebras

May 31, 2025/Rutherford County, Tennessee: A zebra kept as a pet escaped less than 24 hours after his owners obtained him. The animal ran down both sides of an interstate, forcing law enforcement to shut down the roadway, and was also seen in residential neighborhoods. Law enforcement used a drone to track the zebra, who remained at large for over a week, before the animal was tranquilized, recaptured, and airlifted via helicopter.

Dominic Genetti, "Zebra escapes in Tennessee, runs loose on interstate near Nashville," *My Journal Courier*, June 3, 2025.

"A runaway pet zebra has been captured in Tennessee," *Associated Press*, June 8, 2025.

Austin Hornbostel, "Escaped zebra captured in Rutherford County after more than a week on the loose," *The Tennessean*, June 10, 2025.

March 12, 2023/Circleville, Ohio: A 72-year-old man was hospitalized after his arm was almost bitten off by a zebra he had been keeping as a pet. The zebra was highly agitated and charged at police, fire crews, and members of the man's family. The man's arm was reattached at the hospital. Police shot and killed the zebra.

Carla Sinclair, "Ohio man hospitalized after 'pet' zebra nearly bites off his arm," *Boing Boing*, March 13, 2023.

Bethany Bruner, "Ohio man hospitalized after pet zebra bites arm," *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 13, 2023.

January 24, 2023/Dahlonega, Georgia: A zebra at Chestatee Wildlife Preserve bit a member of the public on the fingers, drawing blood, after the person fed the zebra.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspection Report, Chestatee Wildlife Preserve Inc., 57-C-0325, January 24, 2023.

August 22, 2021/Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Between three to seven zebras escaped from a farm owned by a USDA-licensed breeder and roamed through residential neighborhoods. Over four weeks later, one zebra was found dead with their leg caught in a snare trap just outside of the owner's property. Two zebras remained at large for nearly four months before being recaptured in December 2021. Reports varied as to the number of animals who escaped. The Prince George's County Animal Services Division and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources were involved in efforts to locate and recapture the animals. The USDA issued critical citations to the owner, Jerry Holly, in relation to the escapes and death. In 2023, Holly's USDA license was revoked, and he agreed to transfer ownership of all regulated animals and pay \$15,000 to settle allegations of violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Paul Wagner, "Zebras spotted in Prince George's County," *NBC Washington*, September 8, 2021.

Richard Luscombe, "Escaped zebras bamboozle Maryland officials: 'They're just too fast,'" *The Guardian*, September 10, 2021.

Nathan Baca, Scott Broom, "After months on the loose, 2 missing PG County zebras officially located," *WUSA9*, December 14, 2021.

USDA Inspection Report, Jerry L Holly, Lic. No. 51-A-0044, September 20, 2021, November 9, 2021, November 22, 2023.

May 7, 2021/Cookeville, Tennessee: A zebra escaped from a truck parked at Triple W Alternative Livestock Auction. The animal ran onto a highway and was reportedly tased before being captured. Officials from local police and the sheriff's office spent three hours attempting to corner the zebra, who was described as agitated and mad, including with stun guns. An elementary school issued a

"Law enforcement help capture loose zebra in middle Tennessee," *ABC7 Chicago*, May 8, 2021.

"Zebra -- yes, a zebra -- captured after escape in Cookeville," *NewsChannel5 Nashville*, May 7, 2021.

warning about the escaped animal.	
<p>August 7, 2019/New Braunfels, Texas: Two zebras escaped from a pen and swam across the Guadalupe River. Police pursued one of the zebras for several hours along city streets before the animal was corralled, tranquilized, airlifted to a truck, and returned to its owners, where it died hours later. The second zebra was also returned to the property but escaped again the following day and was later found dead outside of its pen.</p>	<p>“2 zebras who escaped animal refuge in New Braunfels die after they are recaptured,” <i>mysanantonio.com</i>, August 8, 2019. “Zebras that took officers on wild chase through New Braunfels have died, police say,” <i>KABB</i>, August 8, 2019.</p>
<p>March 27, 2019/Callahan, Florida: Two neighbors watched as a man shot and killed his pet zebra. The zebra had escaped and darted into a nearby field after apparently being startled by police cars.</p>	<p>“Escaped zebra shot, killed in Callahan,” <i>firstcoastnews.com</i>, March 27, 2019.</p>
<p>April 2015/Muskogee, Oklahoma: A pet zebra attacked a man who was pulling weeds near the animal’s pen. The zebra bit off a portion of the man’s nipple, for which the victim needed seven stitches. The man stated, “It hurt. It was very severe. It was very traumatizing.”</p>	<p>“Woman forced to get rid of pet zebra after it bites off man’s nipple,” <i>Inquisitr</i>, April 30, 2015.</p>
<p>March 15, 2015/Searcy, Arkansas: A man was attacked by his father’s pet zebra and sustained injuries to his eye and arm. Two days after the attack he was still in the hospital in serious condition.</p>	<p>“Arkansas judge mauled by family’s pet zebra,” <i>NBC News</i>, March 17, 2015. Danielle Kloap, “Searcy man still in hospital after zebra attack,” <i>Democrat-Gazette</i>, March 17, 2015.</p>
<p>November 28, 2012/Staten Island, New York: A pet zebra and pony escaped when their owner forgot to shut a gate. The two were nearly hit by a car as they ran back and forth across a busy road. They then ran through a busy parking lot and along a street toward an elementary school where they stopped traffic. The owner ultimately led them home with food.</p>	<p>Mark D. Stein, “Zebra and pony on the lam in Staten Island have returned home,” <i>Staten Island Real-Time News</i>, November 28, 2012.</p>

Selected dangerous incidents with macropods

June 15, 2025/Oswego, New York: A wallaby escaped from Grace & Glory Animals through an open gate. The animal was captured ten days later after being sighted in a trailer park, on a golf course, and near the local high school. The animal's owner noted that the animal was unfamiliar with cars and could pose a risk to drivers. The USDA issued Grace & Glory a critical citation in relation to the escape.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Grace & Glory Ministries, 21-C-0430, June 17, 2025.

Dale Ostrander, "Wallaby on the loose in Town of Oswego prompts community search effort," CNY Central, June 17, 2025.

Clare Normoyle, "Oswego County Wallaby, Mac, returned home after over a week on the loose," WSYR-TV, June 25, 2025.

May 9, 2025/Loris, South Carolina: A man was found dead with "multiple blunt injuries" in an enclosure containing a kangaroo and wallabies at 5 Star Farm. The victim's brother reportedly said that the victim liked to enter the enclosure and "roughhouse" with a male kangaroo.

Eric Richards, "Horry County farm owner speaks out after brother found dead in kangaroo enclosure," WMBF, May 12, 2025.

Richard Luscombe, "Man died of 'blunt force injuries' at US zoo after suspected kangaroo fight," The Guardian, May 12, 2025.

April 29, 2025/Auburn, AL: A kangaroo, owned by petting zoo operators who described the animal as a personal pet, escaped and ran down an interstate highway in a neighboring county, causing a two-car crash and resulting in both sides of the highway being shut down while the kangaroo was recaptured. State highway troopers responded to the crash and assisted with the recapture of the animal. The kangaroo was recaptured after being shot twice with a tranquilizer gun. The USDA cited the facility for the escape.

Jon Haworth, "Sheila the runaway kangaroo causes car crash, shuts down Alabama highway," ABC News, April 30, 2025.

Carol Robinson, "A kangaroo loose on an Alabama interstate? 'We see a little bit of everything,' sheriff says," al.com, April 29, 2025.

US Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Starco Group LLC, 64-C-0249, May 9, 2025.

November 9, 2024/Chavies, Kentucky: A wallaby kept as a pet escaped and was spotted in a resident's yard on home security footage. The wallaby was found and returned to their owner a few days later with assistance from a thermal drone recovery company.

Dave Spencer, "Australian wallaby found wandering through KY neighborhood," WBKR, November 13, 2024.

FOX TV digital team, "Video: Missing wallaby captured in Kentucky after days on the lam," FOX TV, November 14, 2024.

August 15, 2024/El Paso, Texas: A child was scratched on the face during an interaction with a wallaby at Jungle Reef. According to the boy's mother, the wallaby "jumped up and clawed my 2 year old son in the face, on both sides [...] and swiped at my son's legs. She has super sharp claws and nobody warned us of that or we would have never let our babies in the barn. Even after that occurred and we were waiting to make an incident report, they were continuing to allow children into the barn with the wallaby." Later that day, the wallaby was inadvertently crushed to death in a door by an employee.

Elida S. Perez, "'Heartbreaking': Concerns rise over Jungle Reef mall aquarium conditions, compliance issues," El Paso Matters, September 8, 2024.

Stephanie, Google review of Jungle Reef, August 15, 2024.

May 18, 2024/Lufkin, Texas: Two kangaroos kept as a

Patrick Reilley, "Kangaroos run loose in Texas,

<p>pets escaped through an open gate. Police dashcam footage showed one of the kangaroos hopping in front of the police car in a neighborhood as they responded to reports of the loose animals.</p>	<p>baffling local residents: 'Ma'am, I don't know who I need to call,'" <i>New York Post</i>, May 24, 2024. Priscilla Aguirre, "Texas police capture loose kangaroo in Lufkin," <i>Imtonline.com</i>, May 30, 2024.</p>
<p>February 18, 2024/Texarkana, Texas: A kangaroo kept as a pet escaped from a family who brought the animal to an outing at Spring Lake Park. Police captured the kangaroo. The kangaroo had originally been used in a petting zoo.</p>	<p>Mario Garcia, "Meet the kangaroo that was spotted in a Texarkana Park," <i>KKYR</i>, February 19, 2024.</p>
<p>February 8, 2024/Tampa, Florida: A kangaroo kept as a pet escaped and got trapped in the pool area of an apartment complex. A resident who spotted the loose animal called 911. The kangaroo was captured by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and returned to the owner.</p>	<p>Brad Matthews, "Escaped kangaroo rescued from pool area of Tampa apartment complex," <i>The Washington Times</i>, February 10, 2024.</p>
<p>February 7, 2024/Harrogate, Tennessee: An escaped pet wallaby was spotted roaming across a campus by students at Lincoln Memorial before entering nearby woods. Local and state officials worked to locate the wallaby, who was eventually recaptured.</p>	<p>Hope McAlee, "Escaped wallaby spotted at Lincoln Memorial University captured," <i>WATE</i>, February 7, 2024.</p>
<p>February 8, 2024/Tampa, Florida: A kangaroo kept as a pet escaped and got trapped in the pool area of an apartment complex. A resident who spotted the loose animal called 911. The kangaroo was captured by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and returned to the owner.</p>	<p>Brad Matthews, "Escaped kangaroo rescued from pool area of Tampa apartment complex," <i>The Washington Times</i>, February 10, 2024.</p>
<p>December 2023/Fresno, California: A wallaroo escaped from a walk-through exhibit at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The wallaroo repeatedly jumped headfirst into fencing during the recapture process and suffered severe injuries.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Fresno's Chaffee Zoo Corporation, license #93-C-0752, December 20, 2023.</p>
<p>August 19, 2023/Brooklyn, New York: Officers with the New York Police Department confiscated a wallaby on the Coney Island boardwalk from a man who was illegally keeping the wallaby as a pet. The man was spotted in several areas walking around with the wallaby in a pouch and asked pedestrians wanting a selfie with the animal for a "donation." The man had purchased the then 9-month-old wallaby a month earlier for \$2,500 from a Wisconsin breeder and spent another \$1,300 to have the wallaby transported to him. He was issued a \$1,000 fine for illegally possessing a wild animal.</p>	<p>Alex Oliveira, "Wallaby rescued on Coney Island boardwalk 'happy' at Long Island wildlife rescue," <i>New York Post</i>, August 22, 2023. Georgia Worrell, "Owner of confiscated Coney Island wallaby misses his fur baby," <i>New York Post</i>, August 26, 2023.</p>
<p>July 25, 2023/Grantsville, Utah: A 3-year-old intact male wallaby bit a 3-year-old boy while the child was in the pen with the wallaby at Ivie Acres Farm & Petting Zoo. The boy was examined by a doctor, and the wallaby was placed under a ten-day quarantine.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Sherrie Ivie, license #87-C-0061, November 21, 2023.</p>
<p>July 5, 2023/Blanchard, Oklahoma: A 1-year-old 4-foot</p>	<p>Sara Smith, "Roo, the pet wallaby, missing since</p>

<p>wallaby kept as a pet on a property adjacent to a highway jumped a fence and fled into nearby woods. The police used a drone in a failed attempt to locate the missing wallaby.</p>	<p>Wednesday morning in Blanchard," KOKH, July 6, 2023. Ben Hooper, "Wallaby on the loose in Oklahoma after dog opens gate," UPI, July 7, 2023.</p>
<p>March 30, 2023/Sparta, Tennessee: A 9-month-old diapered kangaroo kept indoors as a pet escaped through a door that had been left open. The kangaroo had apparently been purchased at the Triple W exotic animal auction in Cookeville. The owner posted a \$20,000 online fundraiser to pay for searching for the kangaroo.</p>	<p>Ben Hooper, "Pet kangaroo on the loose in Tennessee," UPI, April 6, 2023. Todd Watson, "With the search for Beau," GoFundMe.com, April 5, 2023.</p>
<p>February 14, 2023/Granbury, Texas: A diapered, bottle-fed kangaroo kept as a pet jumped a backyard fence and escaped after being frightened by nearby drilling. Volunteers and drones searched wooded areas. The kangaroo returned on his own two days later.</p>	<p>Dionne Anglin, "Missing kangaroo back home in Granbury after 2-day search," FOX4, February 16, 2023.</p>
<p>October 23, 2022/Carroll County, Indiana: One of two pet kangaroos escaped near the White Oaks RV Resort. Three men retrieved the kangaroo from a lake but the kangaroo took off before he could be captured. Nearly two weeks later the kangaroo was found dead of apparent drowning in the same lake.</p>	<p>Eric Graves, "Carroll County kangaroo missing, neighbors helping search for it," FOX59, October 24, 2022. Matt Christy, "Loose Carroll County kangaroo found dead in lake," FOX59, November 2, 2022.</p>
<p>September 27, 2022/Temperance, Michigan: The USDA issued a critical citation to Even Keel Exotics for booking public encounters with a wallaby who was too young to be handled by members of the public. The USDA indicated that, based on the animal's small size, appearance, and hair coat, the joey should have still been in the mother's pouch.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Zachery Keeler, 34-B-0225, June 29, 2023.</p>
<p>September 22, 2022/Fort Worth, Texas: SeaQuest was cited by the USDA after a young Dama wallaby bit a child on the finger during a public contact session. According to the USDA inspector, "This facility has a history of public injury during its 'animal encounters'."</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, SeaQuest, 88-C-0216, site 003, September 22, 2022.</p>
<p>September 19, 2022/Adams County, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania Game Commission reported that a 6-month-old kangaroo offered for sale illegally online for \$5,000 was found wrapped in a blanket and stashed inside a closet when it was seized by officials.</p>	<p>"Pennsylvania man caught selling baby kangaroo for \$5,000 on Facebook, officials say," FOX 29, September 19, 2022.</p>
<p>August 8, 2022/Brewster, Ohio: During a 5-day period, residents reported seeing, and in one case videotaped, a wallaby running loose. The police fielded calls from across the country and solicited help from animal specialists who set out a trap. A neighboring town loaned them a drone to search for the wallaby. A wallaby exhibitor predicted the animal would not survive more than 3 to 6 months, due to the possibility of being hit by a car or perishing in Ohio's winter as well as a lack of nutrients necessary for their</p>	<p>Stephanie Raymond, "Wallaby is on the loose in Ohio and no one knows what to do," WBBM Newsradio, August 15, 2022. Lynna Lai, "Roo on the Run: Wandering wallaby remains elusive in Stark County Lynna Lai," WKYC, August 15, 2022.</p>

survival.	
<p>July 11, 2022/Gastonia, North Carolina: Gaston County Animal Control responded to a report that a loose wallaby was spotted in the neighborhood. The wallaby was being kept illegally as a pet and had escaped from the owner's property. The owner agreed to find a new home for the wallaby.</p>	<p>Kaitlin Wright, "Wallaby Spotted In A Gaston County Neighborhood," WCCB, July 12, 2022.</p>
<p>December 2, 2020/Peru, Illinois: A 911 center was flooded with calls about a kangaroo-like animal running down U.S. Route 6 in traffic. The animal, a wallaroo, had broken free from their owner. Police, firefighters and neighbors tried to catch the wallaroo who eventually fell into the frigid water of the Illinois River. Two fishermen out on a boat saw the wallaroo and grabbed him with a fishing net, ending the two-hour chase. A veterinarian said the wallaroo was "so cold we couldn't register his temperature on the thermometer." Two hours later, the wallaroo was released back to his owner.</p>	<p>Will Jones, "Wallaroo on the loose in Peru, Illinois leads police on wild chase," WLS/ABC7, December 3, 2020.</p>
<p>September 27, 2018/Littleton, Colorado: A wallaby at SeaQuest named Ben with a history of jumping and nipping grabbed a person by the arm and scratched and kicked the person, causing the right arm to bleed.</p>	<p>Colorado Disease Control & Environmental Epidemiology Division, SeaQuest Injury Reporting Form, September 27, 2018.</p>
<p>May 6, 2017/Huntsville, Alabama: A 9-year-old girl needed 14 stitches after she was attacked by a kangaroo at Harmony Park Safari (aka Huntsville Nature Preserve). The girl screamed hysterically when the kangaroo reached through the enclosure fence, grabbed her by the hair, and bit her on the head. The girl later commented, "I'm just glad that it got me instead of my [3-year-old] sister (who had been standing next to her), because it would have hurt her even worse." The girl's parents, who claimed that the kangaroo had bit and attacked people in the past, sued the park for negligence and wantonness.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Inspection Report, Huntsville Nature Preserve, 64-C-0141, May 8, 2017. Crystal Bonvillian, "Girl attacked by kangaroo at drive-thru zoo as mom records encounter," Cox Media, May 8, 2017. Ashley Remkus, "Mother of kangaroo attack victim sues Alabama zoo," AL.com, May 7, 2018. CBS New York - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_bIAYaEN8s</p>
<p>October 17, 2015/Staten Island, New York: The owner of an auto repair shop spotted a kangaroo hopping around the parking lot. The animal had escaped through the open gate of a nearby home where a man was visiting to show off his pet to friends.</p>	<p>"Kangaroo captured after hopping away from Travis home," siadvance.com, October 17, 2015.</p>