



MEDIA RELEASE

Parks and Wildlife Service Help Save Wallaby

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service wildlife officers have helped save a wallaby's life after it was found inside a sewage pond in Palmerston.

Senior wildlife officers Ray Chatto and Peter Phillips used a long pole and lasso to rescue the stricken animal.

"We received a call on Tuesday from a sewage contractor that a wallaby had somehow found its way into one of the trade waste ponds," Mr Chatto said.

"A joint effort between Parks and Wildlife Service, Power and Water Corporation and Palm City Veterinary Hospital staff then ensued.

"It was a real stinker of a job as the wallaby was thrashing about but we couldn't let the waste stand in the way of the wallaby's welfare."

The wallaby was assessed and treated at the scene by Palm City Veterinary Hospital (PCVH) staff before being transported to PCVH for further treatment.

PCVH owner/manager Stephen Cutter praised all involved in the wallaby's rescue and said the wallaby could have died had it not been saved.

Dr Cutter said the wallaby is being treated for temporary blindness, a chest infection and stress capture myopathy, which causes muscles to breakdown.

He said the wallaby could have been trying to escape a dangerous situation, which prompted it to jump into the pond.

"This is the first time I have heard of a wallaby being rescued from a sewage pond but there have been instances of wallabies being rescued from dams or even the sea," Dr Cutter said.

"When wallabies are threatened by other animals, such as dogs for example, they see a body of water as being a safe place of refuge.

"Unfortunately, or fortunately, in this instance the wallaby felt she would be safe in the waste pond and she was lucky to get out alive."

Mr Cutter said Wildlife Rescue could be contacted on 0409 090 840 if people came across any wildlife in need of rescue.

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Media Note – For more information or to arrange obtaining photos of the wallaby contact Ms Lisa Hansen at PCVH on 8932 9738 or 0407 391 543.

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