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KANGAROO CONSERVATION CENTER TO BE FEATURED ON NBC'S "TODAY" SHOW JULY 10

DAWSONVILLE, Ga.—Viewers from across the country will get an up-close look at the inner workings of the Kangaroo Conservation Center on the morning of Thursday, July 10 when the KCC is scheduled to be featured on NBC-TV's "Today" show.

Founders/directors Roger and Debbie Nelson, along with a few selected young marsupials, will make the trip to New York City's Rockefeller Plaza, where they will appear live on the "Today" set with hosts Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira, Ann Curry and Al Roker.

"Today" producer Molly Parnell and a Georgia-based video crew spent the entire day on June 18 filming the KCC's employees working with the nine species of kangaroos in the 87-acre park located one hour north of Atlanta at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Dawsonville. The "Today" cameras also captured the public tour given at the KCC.

"We are extremely pleased to further our mission of preserving these wonderful creatures to a nationwide audience on the 'Today' show," said Roger Nelson. "Not only is the Kangaroo Conservation Center part of a captive breeding program for zoos across the country, it is also a tourist destination in Northeast Georgia that educates the general public that visit us each year about kangaroos."

The Kangaroo Conservation Center — selected as "Best Animal Encounter" in *Atlanta* magazine's Best of Atlanta 2006, profiled by *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian* & *Delta Sky* magazines and rated "Fodor's Choice" by *Fodor's The Carolinas and Georgia, 17th Edition* in 2007 — features the largest kangaroo collection outside of Australia.

The KCC is dedicated to the preservation of kangaroo species through captive breeding and public education, and the Center is certified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The Kangaroo Center has more than just marsupials. Individuals and tour groups can take the "Aussie Adventure" — a 90-minute guided tour that consists of a boomerang exhibition, a ride on the "KangaRanger" truck through the park where visitors can view the kangaroos in their natural environment, the "Wild Australia" show in Australia Station where visitors meet the animals up close in an entertaining and educational look at the different species living at the KCC.

Before or after the guided tour, visitors can walk through the "Billabong Encounter" that is home to native Australian birds, mammals and reptiles, walk or hike along the "Aussie Walkabout" to view kangaroo mobs (what groups of kangaroos are called), enjoy the adjacent butterfly picnic garden and follow the trail through "Fern Valley," which is a native Appalachian forest. KCC souvenirs, gifts for friends and family and delicious snacks are available at the "Aussie Outpost." All KCC gifts and souvenirs can also be ordered online year-round at www.kangarooconservation.com.

The "Aussie Adventure" admission (excluding sales tax) is \$30 for adults, \$28 for senior citizens (65 and over) and \$25 for children ages 6-17. Other individual visitor options are available starting at \$18 per person. For up-to-date ticket availability, and to purchase tickets, go to www.kangarooconservation.com. Group rates are available — contact the KCC at (706) 265-6100 or visit www.kangarooconservation.com for more details and tour date availability. The KCC offers tours through the end of November. Tour days and dates vary so potential visitors are strongly encouraged to check the tour calendars on the website for the most up-to-date information regarding availability.

To reach the Kangaroo Conservation Center from Atlanta, take Georgia Hwy. 400 North to Hwy. 136. Go left (west) on Hwy. 136 and travel 12 miles. Turn right onto Bailey-Waters Road at the Forrest Hills Conference Center sign. Drive about 100 yards to the first entrance on the right — just look for the large bamboo gate.

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