



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

MEDIA STATEMENT

International experts highlight need to protect the dingo

Date

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International experts are currently in Sydney attending a conference where the importance of dingoes to Australia's ecosystem will be highlighted. John Hadidian, Director of Urban Wildlife from the Humane Society of United States (HSUS), and Camilla Fox, the founding Executive Director of Project Coyote and Wildlife Consultant with the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) will be chairing a session at the conference on how to integrate ethics, animal welfare and science into the debate around human-wildlife conflicts.

Recent research has shown that the dingo plays a key role in Australian ecosystems, and removing dingoes from our landscapes will have a profound impact on species richness and abundance for smaller mammals and other species. Humane Society International believes it is vital to conserve the dingo and for Australia to adopt a new approach to dingo management and protection. To help achieve this, HSI has submitted a nomination for the dingo to be protected under the federal environmental legislation, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This nomination is currently under consideration by the federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke MP.

"It is essential that Australians start to think more about how they can live with dingoes, rather than seeking to remove them" said Camilla Fox of Project Coyote and AWI. "Rethinking the relationship with the dingo will help Australia to ensure the habitats in which they live can also be conserved."

"Australians have the opportunity to end decades of conflict with dingoes and start on a new path of co-existence, free of persecution for the dingo" said John Hadidian of HSUS.

"With the dingo already protected under Victorian legislation, it is time for the Federal Government to ensure this protection can be afforded to the dingo consistently across the country, and the most effective way in which to achieve this is to list the dingo under the EPBC Act" said Alexia Wellbelove of Humane Society International.

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HSI concentrates on the preservation of endangered animals and ecosystems and works to ensure quality of life for all animals, both domestic and wild. HSI is the largest animal protection not-for-profit organisation in the world, with over 10 million supporters globally and has been established in Australia since 1994.