

REMEMBERING OLIVIA



Martha Sullivan rescued **Olivia** the kangaroo (see Binocular article in Spring 2009 issue):

Martha wrote then:

We visited the Center in mid-January, 2009. Earlier in the Fall, we had solicited donations and purchased "Olivia," a kangaroo, from a petting zoo owner in Upstate New York who was closing down and auctioning off all his animals to the highest bidder. No screening of prospective owners for suitability, no trying to find the best possible homes for the animals – this auction was only about maximizing profits. Olivia was destined for a roadside zoo, for a lifetime of unnatural confinement and isolation. Her entire six years of life had already been spent that way. She deserved so much better.



Olivia rolling over and over to show Martha and Diane how happy she was that she was there and could just be a kangaroo. It was her way of saying "Good-bye, my friends, thank you for getting me here."

After much research, Martha found out about the **Kangaroo**

Conservation Center. She wrote:

*If you're a kangaroo and you're not living in the wilds of your native Australia, hopefully you're at least lounging in the resort-like accommodations of the **Kangaroo Conservation Center** at Dawsonville, GA. www.kangarooconservationcenter.com.*

In a recent follow-up with Martha, we learned that Olivia passed away right before Christmas last year. Martha wrote: *It's a sad story. Olivia passed away right before Christmas last year. She was at the kangaroo sanctuary for just over a year. They said that it's not unusual with wild animals who are first kept as pets, then later made 'wild' again. They did an autopsy but found nothing conclusive. They said that her 6 years of an unnatural diet (parrot food and cheese-peanut butter crackers) could account for a lot. The readjustment is just too hard. 'Failure to thrive' was the diagnosis. We were heartsick. We worked so hard to find a good place for her and we just wanted her to have a happy life. I wanted to contact her former owner ('Grandpa Bob') and tell him she died, but I never did. I wanted him to feel guilty. **She was only 7 years old.***

Wildlife Watch would like to thank **Martha Sullivan** for all that she did to help Olivia enjoy her final year.



Here is Olivia being a free kangaroo in her last year.