



## [Marc Bekoff Ph.D. Animal Emotions](#) **Australia to Kill Goats Using Self-Destructing Dingoes**

**"Death row dingoes set to be the environmental saviour of Great Barrier Reef's Pelorus Island": *Using time bombs to kill dingoes***, reads the headline of an ABC news article by Dominique Schwartz (read more about this plan and sickening quotes by the killers [here](#)). Her essay begins: A Queensland council is releasing dingoes onto a Great Barrier Reef island to kill feral goats that [sic] are destroying its endangered ecosystem. The four wild dogs, two of which [sic] have already been released on Pelorus Island, will not have a chance to become pests themselves, as they've been implanted with a time-activated poison, Hinchinbrook Shire Council said. It turns out that these self-destructing dingoes are being used in sort of a kamikaze-like mission.

This reprehensible plan led by father-son dingo experts Lee & Ben Allen, who take pride in their killing ways. In Ms. Schwartz's essay we also read some interesting words from Hinchinbrook Shire Council Mayor Ramon Jayo, namely, "This is [nature](#). The dingo is a predator, the goat is the source of a dingo's affection, so we believe that, yeah, just put nature together and that'll sort out the problem."

Mr. Jayo fails to note that the dingoes are desexed and pre-loaded with a capsule of 1080 poison that will then kill them if they don't die of natural causes. So, this reprehensible slaughter is hardly putting nature together. And, [to quote the heartless Ben Allen](#):

"The plan is: dingoes wipe out goats, we come back and humanely shoot those dingoes 'cause they'll have tracking collars, so we can find out where they go. *If for whatever reason we can't come back and shoot them, well then those little time bombs'll go off.*" (my emphasis) Of course, Mr. Jayo fails to note that the dingoes are desexed and pre-loaded with a capsule of 1080 poison that will kill them if they don't die of natural causes. So, this reprehensible slaughter is hardly putting nature together.

It gets worse. Hinchinbrook Council's Matthew Beckman notes, "Once this island is successful, it will set the platform for many other island managers to follow through and carry out similar projects." **What a deplorable model for youngsters and future conservation biologists.**

The attitudes of the people who advocate killing, using doomed death row dingoes among other inhumane and brutal methods, provide a gold mine for researchers in [conservation psychology](#) and [anthrozoology](#), both of which interdisciplinary fields are concerned with human-animal relationships. And, the growing international field of compassionate conservation could also help get the discussion going in non-killing directions (please see, for example, "[Compassionate Conservation Meets Cecil the Slain Lion](#)").

Along these lines, what I find utterly astounding and deeply disturbing is the incredibly detached and utterly cold attitude of the people behind the killing, with not a word of compassion, [empathy](#), or sympathy being voiced. *I'm glad I'm not their dog.*

A few people asked me what they could do and all I could say is that there surely are other places to visit on holidays, and they also could rather easily spread the word globally because, as the late and incredibly passionate animal advocate, Gretchen Wyler, once wisely said, "[Cruelty can't stand the spotlight.](#)" Nor should it.