

Fox predation on koalas.

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I have received two colloquial accounts of predation by foxes on koalas. These accounts are listed below:

The students were on a spotlighting task at Parker Hill (near the bridge you parked near) in early November. We have observed foxes and koalas in the area. A young koala (likely still independent from the description of size), was observed on the ground at the side of the road and an adult female in a nearby tree. They did not know why the young was on the ground but were concerned it had been separated from the mother. They decided to move away in the hope that the young and mother would be reunited. They checked back soon afterwards and observed a fox with the young koala in its jaws. The fox dropped the koala when it saw the students. I think the students then picked the koala up and tried placing it on the tree to encourage it back to its mother. They did not observe it climbing back up so did not know the outcome.

This story was related to me by the students who observed the incident. (Name withheld, Deakin University)

[Note: I have been to this locality and fox signs are abundant. A. Melzer]

To whom it may concern: I live on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria on 400 acres and have observed our koala population of approx 20 animals dwindle over the last 3 years. I have observed many fox attacks on koalas and believe that these attacks often go unnoticed to researchers. Most people believe that koalas can adequately defend themselves but this is not the case when foxes hunt in packs.(Name withheld).

[Note: I have not been able to gain a response from this person when trying to follow up. A. Melzer]