

## **Wild Wallaroo**

Fox 4 News March 2006

(Alva, FL) -- A lot of times when you hear about an animal attacking a human, the opinion usually is that the animal is dangerous and should be put to sleep. That's not the case in an attack that happened today in Alva, FL. An 85 pound, 5 foot tall Wallaroo escaped from his cage on a farm owned by a Fort Myers doctor, Ken Burdick. The Wallaroo, which is a mix between a kangaroo and a Wallaby, are usually less aggressive than a kangaroo. But, wildlife experts say if they feel that their female partner is being threatened, they will attack, and that is exactly what happened Wednesday. Susan Rogerson lives next door to the farm that houses the Wallaroos. When she looked out her front door this morning she saw that three of them, one male and two females escaped from their cage. Since the owner of the farm wasn't around, she and her husband decided to try and coax the animals back into their cage. As soon as her husband got close to the female, the male attacked, punching, kicking and clawing. Other neighbors saw what was happening, one came over with a gun and shot the Wallaroo in the shoulder and side.

Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary owner, Lauri Caron, was called to the scene to sedate and transport the animal to a local wildlife hospital, C.R.O.W. Spokeswoman for C.R.O.W. Says after an unsuccessful surgery, they decided the animal's condition was too critical and they put it down with permission of the owner. Everyone involved in today's incident say the Wallaroo was not at fault. Even Susan and her husband said they should have known that it was mating season, and stayed away.