

DPI probes torture of possums

A HORRIFIC animal cruelty case in Brighton is under investigation.

Animal rescuer Michele Phillips of the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter was called to the incident on May 31 in New St, where she found two brushtail possums that had been severely mistreated. "There was one dead possum soaked in something, and had obvious head injuries. Another was skinned alive," she said.

Department of Environment and Primary Industries spokeswoman Sally Bateman said the department was investigating the incident.

If convicted, those responsible face a maximum \$10,000 fine or six months' jail time.

Animal welfare groups have labelled the possum torture case a disgrace.

Wildlife Victoria spokeswoman Amy Amato said confirmed the report and said a wildlife rescue volunteer was sent to the site.

"It's completely heartbreaking when a volunteer witnesses such horrific cruelty at the hands of our fellow humans," Ms Amato said.

"Brushtail and ringtail possums are protected. Hefty fines and penalties apply to those who harm them," Ms Phillips said.

Report sick, injured or orphaned wildlife to Wildlife Victoria - [1300 094 535](tel:1300094535).