

Trapping of pest animals

This factsheet provides information to landholders who are using a Rockhampton Regional Councils animal cage traps to capture wild dogs, foxes or feral cats. Council has a limited number of traps for wild dogs, foxes and feral cats that can be loaned to members of the public for control on their private land.

General Information

- Successful trapping requires time and patience
- Minimise the number of people involved in the trapping
- Think like the animal to be trapped. Wild animals are wary of unfamiliar objects. Choose and locate the trap where:
 - it is disguised by natural cover such as bushes or banks
 - placed in a minimally disturbed site
 - has similar floor on the inside to the outside
- Ensure any pressure plates have space under the plate free from debris; and
- Test the trap door and lock by setting the trap and triggering the mechanism two or three times.

Best Practice Methods

To maximise the success of your program whilst taking animal welfare into consideration the following best practice methods must be adopted.

- Ensure you select a suitable trap for the target species
- Set traps at the end of each day and check them each morning
- Install a trap alert system (if available) to allow prompt response to capture
- Set traps in locations protected from environmental extremes
- Approach traps carefully and quietly to avoid stressing the captured animal
- Non target animals are to be released unharmed (if possible)
- Traps are not to be placed on roofs, in trees, embankments or on slippery surfaces

Trapping Wild Dogs

Pre-feeding

The aim of pre-feeding is to encourage the dog(s) to visit the planned trapping site and to discover food the dog(s) will eat. Suggested foods are meat scraps from the butcher or dog food. Burying the food will prevent birds and other animals from eating it; the dog will find the food by scent.

Once the dog(s) are eating the food, the trap may be introduced so that the mouth of the trap (tied to the open position) is only a few centimetres from the pre-feed site. The strategy is to then slowly move the pre-feed into the trap.

Trapping

When a routine has been established with the dog(s) coming, eating and leaving, the trap may be baited or the door closed.

Trapping Foxes

Trapping foxes is most successful at a known feeding site, such as a chook pen or poultry run. The trap may be inserted into a cut out portion of the fence, which can be repaired after trapping with zip ties. The fox will attempt to access the chickens inside the pen via the trap.

Trapping Feral Cats

The strategy for trapping cats is the same as for trapping dogs. To be effective set the traps in a location the cat frequents. Should the trapped cat be mother with kittens, the kittens will be hiding in the vicinity. Containers in which kittens can hide may be placed nearby.

Disposal of Trapped Animals

If an animal is captured the requestor must contact Rockhampton Regional Council on 4932 9000 and request the animal be collected. If Council is to collect the animals, the trap gates must be closed on Friday morning and not reset until Sunday evening. Council officers are unable to collect any trapped animal on the weekend or public holidays.

Native Bird or Animal

If accidentally trapped the animal or bird must, by law, be released immediately.