

Wild Dog Control background information

Wild dogs can be a large problem in our rural areas.

Control strategies include the use of 1080 baiting, shooting, trapping, the use of guard animals and fencing.

1080 is a poison that naturally occurs in the Australian native landscape and native animals have a tolerance for it. However, dogs, foxes and cats as well as quolls are susceptible and there is no antidote. The death of a dog from 1080 poisoning is quite distressing to witness.

Wild dogs mate in April/May and pups are born June/July and the size of the litter is around 5 pups (1 – 11). Females breed from 2 years of age and dogs can live up to 10 years in the wild. Young dogs disperse in late summer and this is a good time to bait them because they are inexperienced.



Step 1: Identify if you have a problem and what it is

- Signs of predation of native animals
- Signs of predation on livestock
- Attacks on domestic dogs
- Roaming dogs seen and/ or heard

Step2: Do you want to act?

- Act individually or as a group in a coordinated manner?
- Coordinate with other agencies (Forestry, NPWS)?
- Which properties are involved?
- Who will coordinate the program? Who will support that person?
- Which control method do you want to apply?
- If baiting, then how long do you want to run the program for?

Step 3: 1080 baiting

- The LLS pest animal officer for Nana Glen is Mick Elliot. He will supply the bait either in fresh meat or as a synthetic bait. Only those people who hold a Chemical Users Certificate or who have completed the Vertebrate Pest Animal Training module can receive the poison bait.
- Plan the baiting program across individual properties
- Decide to either set up free feeding stations first or go straight to baiting stations.
- Free feeding stations with carefully raked sand or fine soil on top will allow you to identify the type of animal taking the bait (dog, fox, quoll, cat). You could also use cameras.
- All participating landholders will need to sign an indemnity and consent form.
- All neighbours within 1 km of a baiting station must be notified 3 days in advance by phone, email, in person or letterbox drop.
- Notices must be placed on all entrances to each participating property and stay up for 4 weeks.
- All domestic dogs must be strictly on leads during the baiting program.
- Baits must be no closer than 5 m from a property boundary (except where neighbours are part of the program)
- Baits must be at least 500 m away from houses, except those houses who are part of the program.
- No more than 4 baits must be laid along 1 km of road or trail and nor more than 16 baits laid within 100 ha.

- All untaken baits must be collected up and destroyed (buried under 500 mm of soil, clear of waterways).

Setting up baiting stations

- Look for signs of wildlife crossing
- Use intersections of tracks or trails, because dogs mark these and will find the bait there.
- Mark your baiting stations in a subtle manner, so you find them and dogs are not alarmed.

Resources:

Biosecurity Officer, North Coast LLS: Michael Elliott (ph 6604 1111, email: michael.elliott@lls.nsw.gov.au).

NSW DPI: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/vertebrate-pests/pest-animals-in-nsw/wild-dogs/wild-dog-control>

<https://www.pestsmart.org.au/>