

Helpful questions and answers

Q: I am a ratepayer of Hunter LLS; how do I organise pest control on my property?

A: Contact a Biosecurity Ranger at your nearest Hunter LLS office.

Q: If I am not a ratepayer, can I still get help to undertake pest control on my property?

A: Yes, Hunter LLS is happy to provide advice.

Q: What is 1080 poison?

A: Sodium monofluoroacetate commonly called 1080, is a synthetic pesticide widely used to control vertebrate pests in Australia. It occurs naturally in over 30 plant species in Australia, most commonly occurring in plants found in Western Australia and to a lesser extent in the Northern Territory and Northern Queensland.

Q: When is the best time to undertake fox control?

A: The best time is from autumn to spring and whenever there is evidence to suggest their presence.

Q: What is the best practice control program?

A: Proactive fox control undertaken as part of a group baiting program provides the best outcome. Control is undertaken every 3-4 weeks over a 3-4 month period.

Q: Will my pet dog be affected by 1080 poison?

A: Domestic dogs are highly susceptible to 1080 poison. All landholders and adjoining neighbours should closely supervise, restrain or muzzle domestic dogs during and after baiting programs for at least one month after the last bait has been laid to reduce risk.

Q: What do I do if I suspect my pet dog has eaten a 1080 bait?

A: Contact your veterinarian immediately.



We're here to help - just ask!

Consult your nearest Hunter LLS Biosecurity Ranger who has the knowledge and experience to assist you to manage foxes and other invasive species by:

- providing advice
- supplying baits and traps
- assisting with coordinating baiting programs
- becoming involved with other control techniques such as trapping programs.

Contact us 1300 795 299

Maitland Saleyards

Ph: 02 4932 8866

Merriwa

Ph: 6548 2175

Muswellbrook

Ph: 02 6542 4444

Paterson

Ph: 02 4930 1030

Scone

Ph: 02 6545 1311

Singleton

Ph: 6572 2944

Taree

Ph: 02 6551 8994

Total

Ph: 02 4939 8967

Wingham

Ph: 02 6553 4233

Wyong

Ph: 02 4352 5100

© State of New South Wales published by Local Land Services 2015. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose provided that you attribute Local Land Services as the owner.



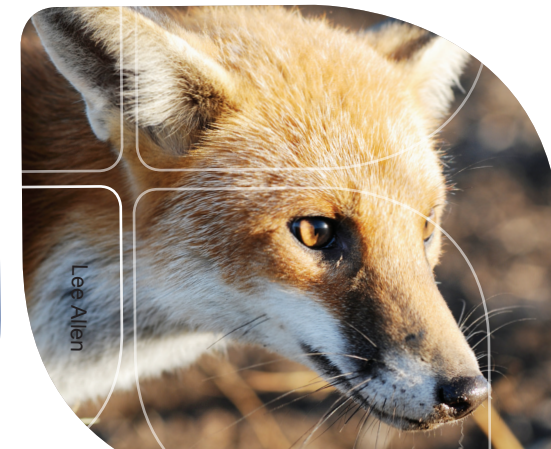
Local Land Services
Hunter



Local Land Services
Hunter

Problems with foxes?

A landholders guide to the continuous control of pest animals



Need more information on biosecurity?

hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au
dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity
farmbiosecurity.com.au
feral.org.au/pestsmart

Subscribe to our e-newsletter

admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au



Follow us at HunterLLS

www.hunter.lls.nsw.gov.au
1300 795 299

Why are foxes a problem?

Foxes were introduced to mainland Australia in the 1850's and are major predators of lambs, poultry, kid goats and native wildlife. They also spread weed seeds including blackberry and lantana. Foxes are a host species for a number of diseases which affect domestic dogs such as parvovirus, distemper, mange and hydatids. In Australia, foxes would be an ideal host and reservoir for rabies.

Signs of foxes

Foxes live in dens or in the undergrowth of shrubs including blackberry and lantana.

Signs of foxes around your property:

- missing / dead animals (chickens and stock)
- fox faeces
- foot prints
- dens
- sightings—day and night.

What can you do to control foxes?

- never feed foxes
- always bring leftover pet food in at night as foxes will readily scavenge food left outside
- cover all garbage and compost bins.

It is important to observe the impacts caused by foxes and focus your control effort at particular periods when stock or wildlife maybe vulnerable. For example, undertake fox baiting shortly before lambing.

Foxes are a declared pest under the [Local Land Services Act 2013](#) and all land managers are obliged to control foxes on their land.



Relative size and track of animal prints



Poisoning

- 1080 is currently the only poison registered in NSW for the control of foxes. 1080 poison is a restricted chemical product and requires users to hold a chemical users certificate. Your local Hunter LLS Biosecurity Ranger can assist you to obtain training if you do not currently hold a certificate
- 1080 is regulated by a Pesticide Control Order and baiting programs need to be implemented in accordance with the requirements including minimum distances from neighbours, public notification and displaying signage. It is one of the most cost-effective ways of controlling foxes and best results are achieved when your neighbours and local community co-ordinate their efforts
- 1080 poison can be distributed in a number of different baits, including boneless red meat or offal, or in manufactured baits. Baits are generally placed along vehicle tracks and animal pads as these areas are preferred routes for foxes
- Ground baiting is most effective when carried out strategically and can be done on a small or large scale. Domestic pets, particularly dogs are very susceptible to 1080 poison.

Note that the implementation of fox control in urban or built up areas can be quite difficult as in most situations poisoning is not an option due to the restrictions placed on 1080 use.

Trapping

- Can be done with the aid of mesh cage traps, or modified soft / rubber jawed leg hold traps
- Lures are used to attract foxes, for example a urine based mixture or a carcass inside the mesh cage
- Traps are useful around chicken enclosures and at holes in fences that are frequently used by foxes. They can be set continuously throughout the year particularly when predation is occurring.

Traps should be set by experienced people to avoid making any mistakes or creating 'trap shy' foxes. Scent lures can be used to attract foxes to the immediate area the trap is set.

By law, traps must be checked every 24 hours and any foxes trapped must be euthanised humanely. If traps cannot be checked as required they must be deactivated. Any non-target animals accidentally trapped must be released.

Other control methods

- opportunistic ground shooting. If you have a firearms licence, shooting can be useful as a continuous control measure when controlling fox numbers and as a follow up method after baiting
- use of guardian animals
- electric fences may be useful for chicken pens. However, they are expensive and can be impractical for large areas
- den fumigation.

It is important to constantly look out for foxes after undertaking fox control as new foxes will recolonise areas previously inhabited by other foxes.

