

Your wild dog control checklist

Consider the following points when planning wild dog control:

- ✓ Talk to staff at Hunter LLS for advice and assistance
- ✓ Establish a network of neighbours to get as many people involved in order to broaden the area where control can be achieved
- ✓ Talk to your neighbours and establish the need for the control e.g. undertaking a control program prior to stock calving
- ✓ Work out where the problem may be e.g. observations may suggest animals are moving along the creek line and then along the road
- ✓ Consider the size of your property and that of the adjoining landholders
- ✓ Determine the most appropriate control method or techniques to be undertaken together with the location, timing and the duration of the program
- ✓ If using 1080 baits, notify your neighbours in accordance with the NSW Pesticide Control Order (PCO) by phone, email or in writing. Remind neighbours to restrain or muzzle domestic pets and working dogs. The PCO details can be found at epa.nsw.gov.au/pesticides/pco.htm
- ✓ Implement the control program - choose suitable weather conditions to undertake the work and monitor the effectiveness of the program
- ✓ Make sure you document the control you have undertaken in accordance with the Pesticides Regulation 2009 – date, location, product used etc. For details refer to epa.nsw.gov.au/legislation/RegulationSummaries.htm#PestReg09

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 wild dogs and other invasive species by:

- providing advice
- supplying baits
- assisting with coordinating baiting programs
- becoming involved with other control techniques such as trapping programs
- working with private landholders and agencies to develop wild dog management plans.

Contact us 1300 795 299

Maitland Saleyards

Ph: 02 4932 8866

Merriwa

Ph: 6548 2175

Muswellbrook

Phone: 02 6542 4444

Paterson

Ph: 02 4930 1030

Scone

Ph: 02 6545 1311

Singleton

Ph: 02 6572 2944

Taree

Phone: 02 6551 8994

Total

Ph: 02 4939 8967

Wingham

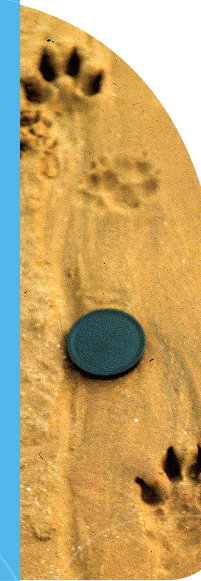
Ph: 02 6553 4233

Wyong

Ph: 02 4352 5100



Local Land
Servi



Wild dogs

A landholder's 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

Subscribe to our e-newsletters

Admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au

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

What are wild dogs?

The term wild dog refers to all wild-living dogs, including dingoes, feral domestic dogs and their hybrid descendants that are or have become wild. In NSW wild dogs are a declared pest under the *Local Land Services Act (2013)* which means landholders have an obligation to control them on their land.

Why are wild dogs a problem in Australia?

Wild dogs can cause damage to livestock and impact on native species. They also can carry disease and parasites which can infect livestock, domestic pets, native wildlife and humans.

Wild dogs are found in many parts of NSW and are very adaptable living successfully in most areas where there is adequate food and water. Their basic diet includes native animals including kangaroos and wombats, rodents, rabbits, birds and reptiles. They are also known to attack livestock and are most active at dawn and dusk.

Wild dogs can be any colour or breed and vary in size depending on breed and the environment they exist in. They are traditionally pack animals so can be found in groups, or by themselves, depending on food availability, with home ranges averaging 4000ha. Breeding can occur every 9–10 months with gestation being around 63 days and litter size of 4–6 pups being common. Pups are weaned at 6–8 weeks, but can remain with the parent until 6–12 months old.

What you can do to control wild dogs

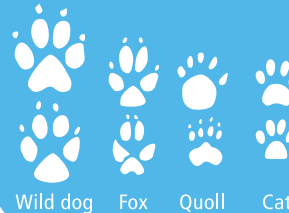
The two most effective ways to control wild dogs are:

Poisoning

- 1080 is currently the only poison registered in NSW for the control of wild dogs. 1080 poison is a restricted chemical product and requires users to hold a chemical users certificate. Your local Biosecurity Ranger can assist you to obtain training if you do not currently hold a certificate.



Relative size and shape of animal tracks



- 1080 poison can be distributed in a number of different bait materials including boneless red meat, offal or manufactured baits. Baits are generally placed along vehicle tracks and animal pads as these areas are preferred routes for wild dogs.
- Aerial baiting is carried out in some inaccessible areas to support ground baiting programs.
- 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.

Trapping

- Is often carried out using modified soft / rubber jawed leg hold traps by experienced persons.
- Is a very effective control option if used correctly to target problem dogs and after coordinated baiting campaign.

Traps should be set by an experienced person to avoid making any mistakes or creating 'trap shy' dogs. Scent lures can be used to attract wild dogs to the immediate area the trap is set. *By law, traps must be checked every 24 hours and any dogs trapped must be euthanised humanely. If traps cannot be checked as required they must be unset.*

Other control methods for wild dogs include:

- Opportunistic ground shooting
- Guardian animals
- Fencing (conventional or electric can provide a barrier). A conventional fence is 180cm high with netting.

Signs of wild dogs

It is important that you report all wild dog sightings and attacks as soon as possible to your local Biosecurity Ranger. Look out for the following signs of wild dogs around your property:

- Tracks (not from domestic pets). Tracks are larger and rounder than a fox
- Sightings
- Faeces
- Stock attacks / deaths and missing stock
- Unsettled domestic pets barking / growling / continuous territory marking
- Dens
- Howling

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 wild dogs and best results are achieved using a coordinated group approach. Your local Biosecurity Ranger can assist you to locate and participate cooperatively with a local wild dog control group.

For more information, contact your local Biosecurity Ranger at Hunter Local Land Services on **1300 795 299**.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au