

Wild dog facts

Property planning

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, landholders are responsible for taking all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with wild dogs. Six-monthly and yearly control programs are effective in keeping wild dog numbers down, though they may not totally eradicate them.

Defining the problem

Are wild dogs known to be in your area?
Have you seen wild dogs?

Yes No
 Yes No

If yes, how many?

Time/date

Description

Have you seen dog tracks or scats or heard howling? Yes (where) No

Have you had domestic pets/stock attacked recently? Yes (where) No

Have you had domestic pets/stock attacked in the past? Yes No

Have your neighbours seen wild dogs? Yes No

Have your neighbours had domestic pets/stock attacked? Yes No

Is your problem critical? Yes Immediate (act now) No (monitor)

What are the patterns of wild dog movement across your property?

Sketch movement; note fences, streams and key features; add dog sightings; stock attacks; tracks and scats.

Any 'Yes' answer suggests you should plan to minimise the effects of wild dogs on your property.

Understanding wild dog behaviour

The key times for taking preventative action against wild dogs are during the breeding season from February to April, when they can be moving into new areas and from August to October once the pups are weaned and dispersing into new areas. When they are on the move at these times, wild dogs can come into contact with domestic pets and stock.

Action: Monitor wild dog activity on your property in March and September and take necessary action.

Avoiding wild dog impacts

- Work with your neighbours. There is little value in trying to control dog numbers if your neighbours are not doing so, as new dogs will simply move onto your property. Contact your Local Government for contact with a local Wild Dog Advisory Committee in your area or to gain assistance with starting one.
- Dog proof your fences. While this is initially expensive, the gain will be high in the long term. This may also get rid of your dog problem altogether if you do it well.
- Keep your stock, particularly during lambing/calving/kidding, in well-fenced paddocks close to the house.
- Eliminate easy food sources such as open composts and dead stock to discourage dogs, foxes and cats.

Your plan

Goal: I/We want wild dogs on my/our property

Action: Monitor and keep a diary of wild dog sightings Yes No

1. Talk with neighbours and share information Yes No who/feedback

2. Check and improve fences Yes No
3. Move young stock close to house from July to October Yes No
4. Check property and remove any easy food sources Yes No

5. Monitor dog activity in peak times (February–April and August–October). Is this affecting the property?
No—keep monitoring, Yes—consider control options.
- a. Guard animal
 - b. Trapping—self or contractor
 - c. Baiting
 - d. Shooting (opportunistic—not recommended).
6. Should you control foxes and feral cats at the same time?
7. Identify the best locations for trapping/baiting. Identify any travel routes and refuge areas. (sketch below)

8. Work with neighbours on control actions and dates. You need to synchronise the timing, but you don't necessarily have to use the same control method. If baiting is the best option, then contact your local council pest officer and show them your coordinated plans.
9. Monitor dog activity—has it worked?
- Have you seen recent tracks or dogs? Yes No
 - What needs to change for next time?

Start planning now!

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

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