

# Wild dog facts

## Wild dogs and wildlife

Predation is a natural process that affects wildlife in different ways. For example, predation by wild dogs may affect the survival of remnant populations of endangered fauna, but is less likely to threaten populations of more abundant natives and introduced species such as pigs.

## Dogs in settled areas

Wild dogs include dingoes, feral dogs and their hybrids. Uncontrolled domestic dogs that irresponsible owners allow to roam free also act like wild dogs. In settled areas, all these dogs put added pressure on wildlife populations that are already suffering from the loss of habitat. As there is easy access to food in these areas, scavenging enables dog populations to be maintained at higher than natural levels, increasing pressure on wildlife and domestic stock.

Every year in Queensland, wild dogs and uncontrolled domestic dogs kill and injure large numbers of native animals. Ground-dwellers, such as wallabies and bandicoots, and tree-dwellers such as koalas and possums that cross open ground on foot are particularly vulnerable to dog attacks. Large reptiles, for example bearded dragons and blue tongue lizards, and ground-nesting birds such as coucals, curlews and swans are also vulnerable.

## Dog control in settled areas

It is challenging to manage wild dogs - controls on the use of firearms and on baiting also make control difficult in settled areas. The supply of problem dogs is constantly replenished by dumping and neglect and the problem is exacerbated by roaming domestic dogs.

In controlling the dogs, it is vital to address the underlying cause of the problem. This involves raising community awareness of the effect of these dogs on wildlife and encouraging responsible dog ownership.

Domestic dogs should not be allowed to roam, either during the day or night. Unwanted dogs should never be dumped in bushland or in rural areas, but should be given to the RSPCA or destroyed humanely.

## What you can do

- Keep food scraps and compost heaps out of the reach of wild or straying dogs. The wildlife in your area will be at less risk if dogs are not encouraged to scavenge nearby.
- Keep your own dog under control at all times—at home, when on a walk, or when in a vehicle. Domestic dogs injured or lost when chasing wildlife may become part of the wild dog problem.
- Desex domestic dogs to avoid attracting wild or straying dogs and to help reduce the number of unwanted dogs.
- Report sightings of wild dogs and uncontrolled domestic dogs to your local council and encourage your neighbours to act responsibly.
- Report any injuries to wildlife to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, so that the animals can be cared for. This information will also help to identify problem areas where control measures and education campaigns can be implemented.

## 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](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)).

