

# Wild dog facts

## Preventing and avoiding wild dog problems

Wild dogs are found in grazing land, cropping areas, rural-residential estates, bushland, and on the fringes of urban areas. They are common in populated areas where people inadvertently, or sometimes deliberately, dump or neglect dogs, which must then attempt to satisfy their basic requirements for food, water, living space and cover. Domestic dogs can behave like wild dogs if they are allowed to wander and roam.

## What attracts wild dogs?

### Food

Dogs are attracted to live prey, refuse, carrion and waste. Live prey can include livestock, pets and wildlife such as domestic ducks or unprotected animals such as goats.

### Disturbance

Disturbances attract wild dogs as they are keen to take advantage of any opportunity to secure an easy meal. Natural disturbances may be associated with injured animals or provide improved opportunities to catch prey. For example, if a tree falls, a wild dog may look for baby birds in a hollow limb, or small insects in loosened soil. Fires may also attract dogs searching for animals that have been killed or injured. Roadways, fencelines and powerlines provide corridors for wild dog movement.

### Water

Ponds or dams may attract thirsty dogs or those hoping to kill prey that comes to drink.

## Other dogs

Dogs are territorial, so a wild dog may try to drive away, or kill a domestic dog that enters its territory. Female domestic dogs that have not been desexed may attract male wild dogs when they are on heat.

## Preventing problems

- Don't feed wild dogs, either deliberately or unintentionally.
- Control food sources such as rubbish, pet food or compost.
- Dispose of dead livestock by burning or burial.
- Manage livestock to reduce opportunities for attack.
  - Fencing for small blocks is the best deterrent.
  - Use of guardian animals is also recommended.
  - Manage calving/lambing/kidding animals by condensing the birthing period, selecting breeds and individuals with strong mothering abilities and closely monitoring animals for a week before and after birth.
- Confine pets so they are not vulnerable.
- Land developers need to proactively manage wild dogs in newly developed areas.

## 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)).

