

Trapping of Pest Animals

Council offers rural landholders the opportunity to loan animal traps to control invasive pest animals on their land within the Livingstone Shire region.

Trapping is an integral component in invasive pest animal control that can provide suitable control all year round.

General Information

- Successful trapping requires time and patience. Minimise the number of people involved in trapping.
- Think like the animal to be trapped. Wild animals are wary of unfamiliar objects.
- A trap which is placed in a minimally disturbed site with similar flooring inside to outside is less threatening to a wild animal than an undisguised trap.
- If the trap works by pressure, ensure space is clear under the plate and test the trap door and lock by setting the trap.

Best Practice Methods

- To maximise success of your program and consideration of animal welfare adopt the following methods:
- Set traps at the end of each day and check them each morning.
- Install a trap alert system (if available) to allow prompt response to capture.
- Approach traps carefully and quietly to avoid stressing the captured animal.
- Traps are not to be placed on roofs, in trees, embankments or on slippery slopes.
- Non target species (native birds or animals) must by law be released immediately.

Trapping Wild Dogs

Pre-feeding

The aim of pre-feeding is to encourage the dog(s) to visit the planned trapping site and to discover the food the dog(s) will eat. Suggested foods are meat scraps from the butcher or dog food. Burying the food will prevent birds and other animals eating it; the dog will find the food by scent.

Once the dog(s) are eating the food, the trap may be introduced so that the mouth of the trap (tied in the open position) is only a few centimetres from the pre-feed site. The strategy is to then slowly move the pre-feed into the trap.

Trapping

When a routine has been established with the dog(s) coming, eating and leaving, the trap may be baited.

Trapping Foxes

Trapping foxes is most successful at a known feeding site, such as a chook pen or poultry run. The trap may be inserted into a cut out portion of the fence, which can be repaired after trapping with zip ties. The fox will attempt to access the chickens inside the pen via the trap. Trap is to be secured so that should the animal jump about causing the trap to turn on its side the door may open releasing the fox. If possible keep a length of tie wire near trap to wire door shut, if it can be done safely.

Trapping Feral Cats

The strategy for trapping cats is the same as for trapping dogs. The trap may effectively be set in a location the cat frequents. Should the trapped cat be a mother with kittens, the kittens will be hiding in the vicinity. Containers in which the kittens can hide may be placed nearby. Trap is to be secured so that should the animal jump about causing the trap to turn on its side the door may open releasing the cat. If possible keep a length of tie wire near trap to wire door shut, if it can be done safely.

Disposal of Trapped Animals

If an animal is captured the requester must contact Livingstone Shire Council on 4913 5000 or 1300 790 919 and request the animal be collected. If Council is to collect the animals the trap gates must be closed on Friday morning and not reset until Sunday evening. Council officers are unable to collect any trapped animals on the weekend or public holidays.