

Taking Control

Support, information and resources for individuals and communities impacted by wild dogs

Spring 2016

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Right: DELWP's Glenn Lineham and members of the Dargo Landcare Group



Free Canid Pest Ejector training available

Wild Dog Controllers are available to demonstrate how to use the recently released Canid Pest Ejectors (CPEs) safely and effectively.

In July, seven members of the Dargo Landcare Group received step-by-step instruction on the new easy-to-use tool from Operations Manager, Glenn Lineham.

Glenn explained how the CPEs work, and the steps for setting them in the field. Glenn also said that while the CPEs are simple to use, it is important to wear safety gear and follow the Directions for Use for 1080 and PAPP Pest Animal Bait Products in Victoria at all times.

Glenn warned that in wet conditions, the meat used on the CPE head to entice wild dogs and foxes can become soft, and may be eaten by crows. Although there is no risk of the crows releasing the poison, the baits will no longer be attractive to target animals.

If you are interested in a free training session, please contact your local wild dog community baiting coordinator. For further information on 1080 and PAPP, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/1080.

Note that CPEs are not a replacement for ground baiting, but are an additional tool to help landholders control wild dogs and foxes.

Shelf-stable PAPP available

Pest animal baits containing the new active constituent, 4-aminopropiophenone (PAPP), are the first registered alternative bait to 1080 for fox and wild dog control and are now commercially available in Victoria in a shelf-stable form.

Like 1080, PAPP is a Schedule 7 poison and can only be purchased and used by authorised persons. Due to the similarities between 1080 and PAPP, authorised 1080 users can use PAPP under existing Agricultural Chemical User Permits (ACUP) and Commercial Operator Licences.

Unlike 1080, there is an antidote to PAPP, which may make the product more appealing to land managers concerned about the risks to domestic dogs.

While the antidote is immediate-acting, it has limited application. It must be administered within a very short time frame (typically 30 minutes) of the bait being ingested. Further, under current legislation, the antidote can only be administered by a registered veterinarian.

Rare tongue-worm found in wild dogs

Wild Dog Controllers in Tallangatta are assisting researchers at Charles Sturt University with research into a parasite that until recently was believed to be rare in Australia.

The tongue worm (*Linguatula serrata*) lives in the throats and nasal passages of dogs and foxes, and lays eggs that are expelled onto the ground and swallowed by grazing animals.



Above: adult tongue worms found in the heads of wild dogs (photo: Kate McSpadden)

When they hatch, the eggs release nymphs which make their way into nearby organs such as the liver and lymph nodes. When those parts of the animal are eaten by a dog or fox, the nymphs transform into adult worms and travel up the oesophagus to continue the life cycle.

Senior research fellow in parasitology, Dr David Jenkins, says that 60% of wild dog head and 15% of fox heads examined as part of the study have been found to be infected with adult tongue worms, while nymphs have been discovered in the lymph nodes of a number of cattle that had been grazed in wild dog impacted areas. This suggests that the parasite (which, despite its name is actually a highly modified arthropod) is far more widespread than previously thought.

Dr Jenkins says that more investigation will be required to ascertain the parasite's impacts on the health of wild dogs, foxes and grazing animals, and the effects of conventional parasite treatments on infected domestic dogs.

He adds that while humans can also host the parasite (the adult worm can live in human nasal cavities, and the nymphs in internal organs or lymph nodes), they can only be infected by eating raw lymph nodes or liver containing nymphs, kissing the muzzle of an infected animal and ingesting the eggs, or through poor personal hygiene following close contact with an infected animal.



GPS collaring project

GPS collaring is providing new insights into wild dog movement, and the effectiveness of current wild dog control in the New South Wales Riverina and Murray regions.

Between February and May this year, 29 wild dogs were captured, fitted with GPS collars and released back into the environment. The collaring was done with the consent of landholders as part of a collaborative project between researchers and trappers from the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and the Riverina and Murray Local Land Services (LSS) groups.

The collars are programmed to drop off the dog after about six months. A VHS transmitter is used to locate the collars which contain valuable information about the animal's movements over that period.

Landholders and local WDCs were encouraged to continue their normal control activities. While researchers are still recovering collars, it appears that a number of dogs have been killed by aerial baiting programs carried out over autumn.

More information about wild dog movements will be available when all collars have been retrieved. For more details about the project, visit <http://murray.lss.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-control/wild-dogs/gps-wild-dog-monitoring>

Trapping success in Carboor

No one was more surprised than Chris Box when he caught a wild dog on his very first trapping attempt on his Carboor farm.

Chris, who has baited on his property for the past ten years, decided to try trapping after suffering significant losses during lambing last autumn.

Chris used one of a number of traps recently purchased by his community wild dog group with funding through Australian Wool Innovation's Community Wild Dog Control Initiative. He says the group bought the traps in order to "attack the problem from all angles", and to have their own wild dog control tools well into the future.

He credits online videos and demonstrations and advice about trapping given to him by Wild Dog Controllers Matt Beach and Neil Gaudion, for helping him achieve success. Visit the PestSmart YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/PestSmart.com> for online trapping help.

Victorian wild dog control statistics (1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016)

- 630 wild dog reports were made to WDCs;
- WDCs trapped or shot 432 wild dogs;
- WDCs laid 20,106 1080 baits of which 5,923 baits were taken;
- Community wild dog control groups laid more than 29,323 1080 baits;
- 4,000 baits were laid by aerial baiting.

There is value in reporting ALL wild dog activity, including dogs that are heard but not seen

A report to your local wild dog control staff about wild dog activity is never wasted. A Wild Dog Controller (WDC) will attend the property in response to a report of a wild dog attacking or harassing stock, and will follow up with a telephone call or visit after receiving a report of wild dogs being seen or heard.

Reports of wild dogs being seen or heard adds significant value to your WDC's understanding of the location and movement of wild dogs in the area.

Each report is logged, and will help determine the WDC's immediate and medium term control activities. Longer term, these reports also play an important role in shaping each wild dog management zone work plan.

If you see or hear a wild dog, please inform your WDC as soon as practicable so that he or she can decide what steps need to be taken to reduce the risk to you and your neighbours' stock.

Remember to include as much current information as possible, including the location, time of day that it was seen or heard, size, colour and gender, and the direction in which it was travelling.

Senior WDC	Localities	Contact
Ian Campbell	Corryong, Biggara, Nariel, Lucyvale, Cudgewa, Tintaldra, Walwa, Burrowye, Shelley, Mt. Alfred, Tallangatta, Koetong, Granya, Tallangatta Valley, Mitta Valley, Sandy Creek, Gundowring	0409 188 465
David Klippel	Mansfield, Merrijig, Jamieson, Alexandra, Yea, Molesworth, Myrtleford, Bright, Mt Beauty, Whitfield, Cheshunt	0428 503 169
Wayne Peters	Bairnsdale, Dargo, Omeo, Benambra, Swift's Creek, Ensay, Ellinbank, Gembrook, Noojee	0429 401 217
Jim Benton	Buchan, Gelantipy, Orbost, Cann River, Bonang, Bendoc, Tubbut, Deddick, Heyfield, Licola, Maffra	0437 245 886

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Printed by Ability Press, Keysborough

ISBN 1835 8926 (print) ISSN 1835 8934 (online)

Accessibility

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