

# Upper Blue Mountains Fox Program

Greater Sydney Local Land Services  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Blue Mountains Conservation Society  
National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Community



## Community Information Package

### Overview

The Upper Blue Mountains Fox Program (UBMFP) is a community, local and state government partnership aiming to reduce the impacts of foxes following the devastating 2019/2020 fires by protecting native species and their habitat. Activities will focus on swamp areas of the Upper Blue Mountains and more particularly on the habitat of the endangered Blue Mountains Water Skink - *Eulamprus leuraensis*.

### Priority Areas and Activities

Fire effected areas between Woodford to Mount Victoria focussing on upper Blue Mountains swamps will be targeted. Cage trapping foxes, reducing resources available to foxes and mapping observations using FoxScan.

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## The Problem

Do you have a problem with foxes? Do you see them predating on native wildlife, are they taking your chickens or harassing your pets? Although they are a smart, and some may say attractive, animal they don't belong in our environment and are impacting on our native fauna and their habitat as well as livestock and pets. Foxes may also carry diseases and can spread weeds.

Following fires the risk of predation increases, so the UBMFP is supporting a number of options to reduce fox impacts including loaning cage traps to residents to catch a fox and supporting residents that have their own cage traps and would like to be involved in the program.

This information package outlines the options and requirements for program participation and includes the required documentation and standard operation procedures. At this stage only participants in the priority areas will be supported under this program.

## Why Use Cage Traps?

Cage trapping is a humane method of controlling foxes safely in urban areas, and can be used in areas where it is not possible to conduct baiting.

## What's Involved – a Quick Guide

### BEFORE TRAP DELIVERY

1. Watch the video "A guide to cage trapping foxes" to see if you are confident that you want to register for the program: <https://youtu.be/ybYyJlhFOek>
2. Register with FeralScan to record fox activity and trapping details: <https://www.feralscan.org.au/>
3. Read the documentation
  - o Standard Operating Procedure - FOX006 trapping of foxes using cage traps
  - o Cage trap guidelines
  - o Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for cage trapping foxes
4. Contact the group to arrange the delivery of a trap or training in use of a cage trap if you have your own trap – email [bluemtn.fox@gmail.com](mailto:bluemtn.fox@gmail.com)

### AFTER TRAP DELIVERY

5. Sign the "Cage trap loan / use agreement" document. A copy will also be provided to the group.
6. If required, submit the form "Transporting pest animals for human destruction".
7. Upon delivery of the trap you will receive training on the use of the cage trap.
8. Read the instructions on how to use FoxScan to record trapping activity or use a written log.
9. Undertake camera trap training to assist in monitoring fox behaviour around the trap.

## Step 1. Watch “A Guide to Cage Trapping Foxes”

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Watch the video to see if you are confident you want to participate in the program as there are a number of steps to consider.



[Click here to see the video](#) or go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybYyJlhFOek&t=9s>

This is an instructional video for Greater Sydney residents to help manage foxes and reduce the impact they may be having on your property through the use of cage traps. This video outlines how to set a trap and the processes you must follow in line with the NSW Biosecurity Act 2017 such as obtaining a permit before transporting a fox.

## Step 2. Register With FeralScan

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Register with FeralScan to record trapping details and fox activity in FoxScan. The details you record will not be made public but are useful to the group to improve practices and track fox activity in the area.

Go to <https://www.feralscan.org.au/>







## Standard Operating Procedure FOX006: Trapping of foxes using cage traps

Prepared by Trudy Sharp, Invasive Animals CRC

### Background

The introduced European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) has a significant impact on native fauna and agricultural production. Fox control methods include lethal baiting, trapping, shooting, den fumigation, den destruction and exclusion fencing.

Trapping may be useful for the control of nuisance animals but is not effective as a general fox control method.

Cage traps are used to capture problem foxes in urban/residential areas and other areas where it is unacceptable or undesirable to use 1080 or leg-hold traps. Animals trapped in a cage can be transported away from the area for euthanasia. Padded-jaw, leg-hold traps can only be used at sites where the animal can be killed by shooting while still held in the trap. Refer to *FOX005 Trapping of foxes using padded-jaw traps*.

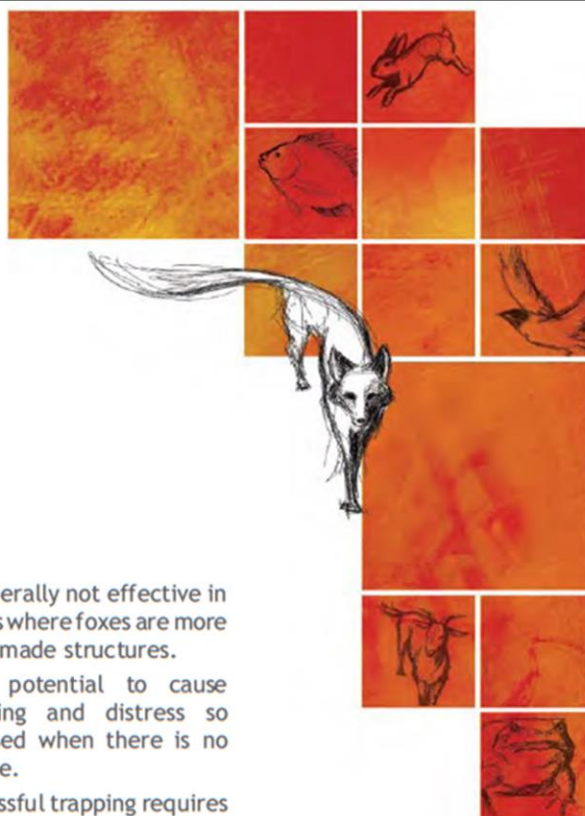
From an animal welfare perspective, cage traps are preferred over leg-hold traps as fewer injuries are sustained and non-target animals can be released unharmed.

This standard operating procedure (SOP) is a guide only; it does not replace or override the legislation that applies in the relevant state or territory jurisdiction. The SOP should only be used subject to the applicable legal requirements (including OH&S) operating in the relevant jurisdiction.

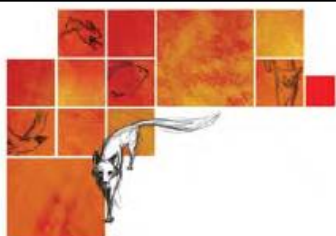
### Application

- Trapping is time-consuming and labour intensive and is therefore an inefficient method for large-scale fox control in Australia.

- Cage traps are generally not effective in rural environments where foxes are more suspicious of man-made structures.
- Traps have the potential to cause significant suffering and distress so should only be used when there is no suitable alternative.
- Humane and successful trapping requires extensive training and experience.
- Selection of appropriate traps and trap sites will maximise chance of capture and minimise the distress caused to target and non-target animals.
- Every effort must be made to avoid target and non-target deaths from factors such as exposure, shock, capture myopathy and predation.
- Once trapped, foxes are either euthanased by shooting at the site of capture or taken to an appropriate site away from residential areas to be shot whilst still in the cage or after transfer to a bag.
- Traps must be used in accordance with relevant state and territory legislation (see Appendix 1). In some states for example, Western Australia, a permit may be required to trap within certain municipalities.
- Shooting of foxes should only be performed by skilled operators who have the necessary experience with firearms and who hold the appropriate licences and accreditation. Storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition must comply with relevant legislation requirements.







## FOX006: Trapping of foxes using cage traps

### Animal welfare considerations

#### Impact on target animals

- Foxes are likely to suffer distress from being confined in a cage trap and they can sometimes be injured while trying to escape, although the potential for injury is less than that for leg-hold traps.
- Cage traps can cause extensive injuries to the teeth and mouth of trapped foxes; this is minimised by using a small mesh size (50 mm is recommended).
- Traps must be inspected daily to prevent suffering and possible death from exposure, thirst, starvation and/or shock.
- It is preferable to set up traps at sites where vegetation can provide shade and shelter.
- Shade cloth or hessian can be used for protection during extremes of weather. In hot weather, water should be provided and in cold weather bedding should be available inside the cage. Where possible, trapping should be avoided when adverse weather conditions threaten the welfare of trapped animals.
- Captured animals must be approached carefully and quietly to reduce panic, further stress and risk of injury.
- Trapped foxes must be euthanased as quickly and humanely as possible.
- If transporting a trapped fox away from the capture site to be euthanased, the cage should be covered with hessian or a blanket to provide shelter from direct sunlight, wind and rain and to minimise stress from visual threats.



Image: Daryl Cooper

- To minimise the animal welfare implications of orphaning dependant cubs, it is preferable not to undertake trapping when vixens are lactating (i.e. August/September).
- If lactating vixens are shot, reasonable efforts should be made to find dependent cubs and kill them quickly and humanely by either shooting (with a single shot to the brain) or by fumigation of the den with carbon monoxide (refer to *FOX004 Fumigation of fox dens with carbon monoxide*).

#### Impact on non-target animals

- Traps must not be set near areas that are regularly frequented by non-target species.
- Traps are not target specific; therefore other species such as birds and reptiles may be caught.
- Non-target animals caught in traps must be examined for injuries and signs of illness or distress and dealt with as follows:
  - Animals which are unharmed or have only received minimal injuries such as minor cuts or abrasions should be immediately released at the site of capture.
  - Animals which have more severe injuries or which are suffering from thermal stress should receive appropriate attention. An animal suffering from thermal stress can initially be placed in a suitable quiet holding area which provides warmth or shade to allow recovery before release. Animals with treatable injuries that cannot be immediately released or those failing to recover from thermal stress should be presented to a veterinarian or a registered wildlife carer for treatment.
  - Animals that have injuries which are untreatable or which would compromise their survival in the wild should be euthanased using a technique that is suitable for the species. For more information on euthanasia techniques refer to [GEN001 Methods of Euthanasia](#).
- If a dog or a cat is caught in the trap, it should be taken to the nearest council pound for assessment. In some states this is a legal requirement. Traps placed in urban/residential areas have a reasonable likelihood of catching owned dogs or cats.

#### Health and safety considerations

- Trapped foxes are dangerous to handle and can inflict serious bites. If these foxes are killed while still in the cage, there should be no need to handle them directly. However, if handling is necessary, leather gloves and a catching pole should be used. Operators



must be protected by tetanus immunisation in case of bite infection.

- Firearms are hazardous. All people should stand well behind the shooter when a fox is being shot. The line of fire must be chosen to prevent accidents or injury from stray bullets or ricochets.
- Care must be taken when handling fox carcasses as they may carry diseases such as hydatidosis and sarcoptic mange that can affect humans and other animals. A fox with obvious mange should only be handled while wearing gloves. Routinely wash hands after handling all fox carcasses.

## Equipment required

### Traps

- Wire mesh cage traps are used. These can be obtained from commercial suppliers and are available in a variety of sizes (eg a fox size cage is 90 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm, and made of 2.5 mm welded wire with a mesh size of 50 mm). The traps have a spring door that is activated either by a treadle plate or a hook mechanism.

### Lures

- Olfactory stimuli such as fox faeces or urine (or a mixture of both) or a commercially prepared lure (e.g. synthetic fermented egg) may be used to lure foxes into the trap.
- The attractiveness of lures will vary with season and location.

### Meat baits

- A handful of meat bait is placed inside the cage trap. Rabbit, lamb, chicken, and kangaroo have all been used as bait.
- Attractiveness and palatability of the bait will vary with season and location.

### Firearms and ammunition

- Smaller calibre rifles such as a .22 rimfire or .22 magnum rimfire with hollow/soft point ammunition should be used.
- The accuracy and precision of firearms should be tested against inanimate targets prior to the commencement of any shooting operation.

## Procedures

### Selection of trap sites

- Traps should be set along fences, tracks and trails or areas frequented by foxes for example, scent pads, scratch points, holes in fences, around carcasses.



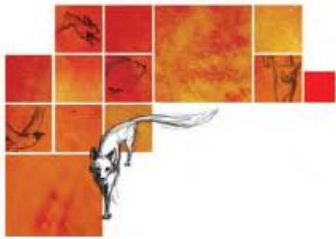
Image: Toby Gurner

- The location of all trap sites must be accurately recorded. This information should be readily available to others in case the trapper is unable to return to check traps.
- Do not place in areas where the traps may be interfered with/damaged by large stock or humans.

### Placing and setting the trap

- It is preferable to set traps at the end of each day and check early each morning. If traps are left set during the day, they should be checked again in late afternoon.
- Before setting each trap ensure that it is functioning properly.
- Where possible place the traps parallel to objects such as fences, logs or sheds with the rear of the cage against an obstruction to prevent foxes taking the main bait without going into the trap.
- Cage traps should be set squarely on the ground and the doors of the trap bent upward to increase the openness of the trap space.
- Place the meat bait at the rear of the trap, attached to the hook mechanism if present. A second piece of meat is placed at the mouth of the trap.
- Cover the floor of the trap with 3-5cm of soil.
- If using lures place them in suitable positions inside and outside the trap.
- The trap should be pegged to the ground to prevent the animal from tipping it over and injuring itself and/or releasing the trap door.





## FOX006: Trapping of foxes using cage traps

### Shooting of foxes

- Trapped live foxes should be destroyed by shooting whilst still inside the cage trap.
- Unnecessary people should keep away from the area to allow the fox to become less agitated. The shooter should approach the animal in a calm and quiet manner.
- To maximise the impact of the shot and to minimise the risk of misdirection the range should be as short as possible, that is, 3-5 cm from the head.
- Never fire when the fox is moving its head, be patient and wait until the fox is motionless before shooting. Accuracy is important to achieve a humane death. One shot to the head should ensure instantaneous loss of consciousness and rapid death without resumption of consciousness.
- Shots must be aimed to destroy the major centres at the back of the brain near the spinal cord. This can be achieved by one of the following methods (see Diagram 1):

#### Frontal position (front view)

The firearm is aimed at a point midway between the level of the eyes and the base of the ears, but slightly off to one side so as to miss the bony ridge that runs down the middle of the skull. The aim should be slightly across the centreline of the skull and towards the spine.

#### Temporal position (side view)

The firearm is aimed horizontally at the side of the head at a point midway between the eye and the base of the ear.

- Death of shot animals should always be confirmed by observing the following:
  - absence of rhythmic, respiratory movements
  - absence of eye protection reflex (corneal reflex) or 'blink'
  - a fixed, glazed expression in the eyes
  - loss of colour in mucous membranes (become mottled and pale without refill after pressure is applied).

If death cannot be verified, a second shot to the head should be taken immediately.

### Further information

Contact the relevant federal, state or territory government agency from the following list of websites:

- Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/>
- Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
<http://www.daff.gov.au>

- ACT Territory and Municipal Services Directorate  
<http://www.act.gov.au/browse/topics/environment>
- NSW Department of Primary Industries  
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au>
- NT Department of Land Resource Management  
<http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/>
- Qld Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
<http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/>
- SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Biosecurity SA  
<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa>
- Tas Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment  
<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/>
- Vic Department of Primary Industries  
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/>
- WA Department of Agriculture and Food  
<http://www.agric.wa.gov.au>

### Also refer to:

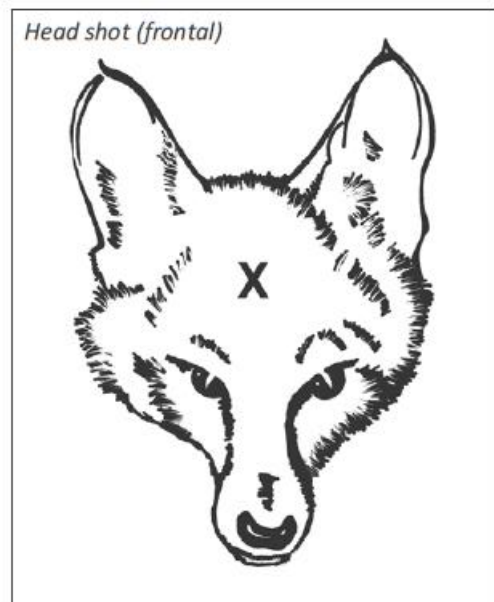
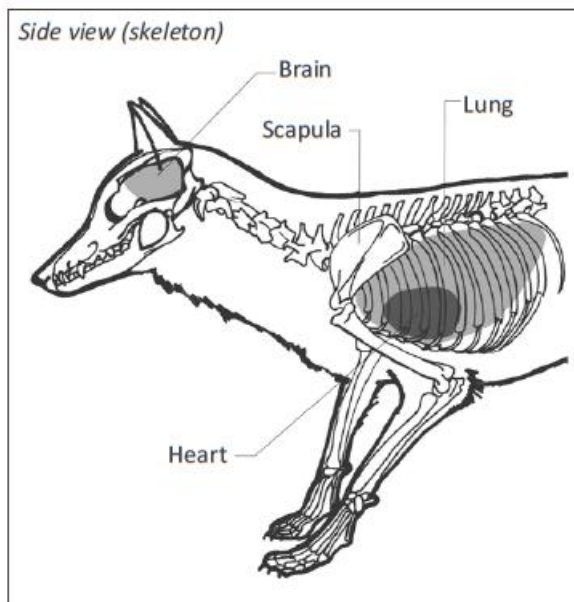
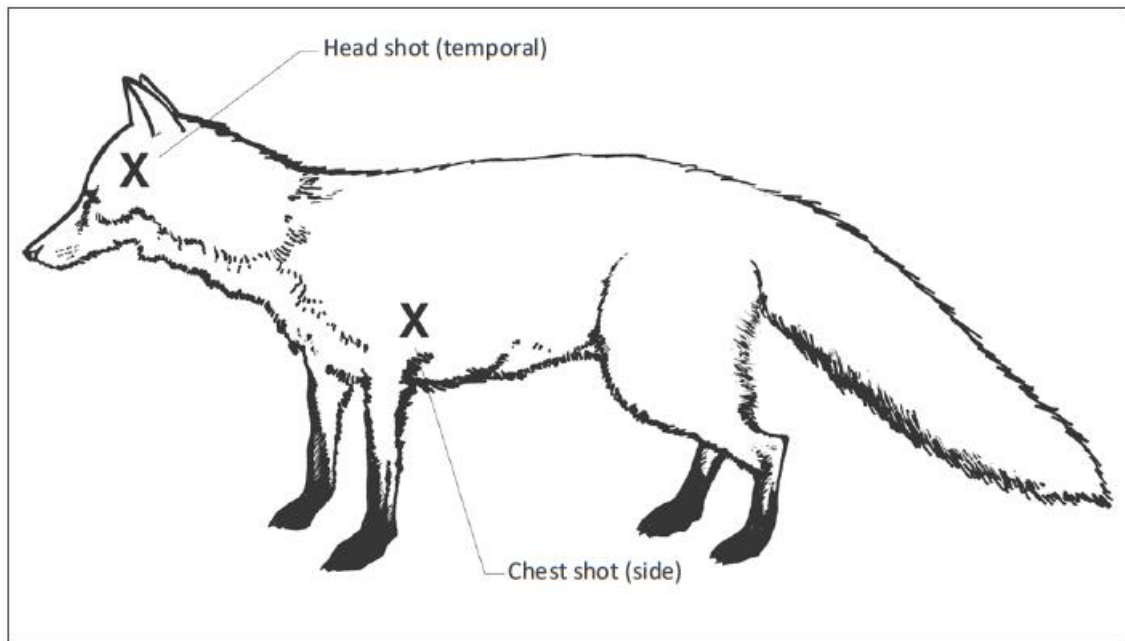
- Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre  
<http://www.invasiveanimals.com/>  
and <http://www.feral.org.au>

### References

1. Baker PJ, Harris S, Robertson CPJ, Saunders G and White PCL (2001). Differences in the capture rate of cage-trapped red foxes *Vulpes vulpes* and an evaluation of rabies control measures in Britain. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 38:823-835.
2. Canadian Council on Animal Care (2003). *Guidelines on the care and use of wildlife*. CCAC, Ottawa, Canada.
3. Kay B, Gifford E, Perry P and van de Ven R (2000). Trapping efficiency for foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) in central New South Wales: age and sex biases and the effects of reduced fox abundance. *Wildlife Research* 27:547-552.
4. Longair JA, Finley GG, Laniel MA, MacKay C, Mould K, Olfert ED, Roswell H and Preston A (1991). Guidelines for euthanasia of domestic animals by firearms. *Canadian Veterinary Journal* 32:724-726.
5. Saunders G, Coman B, Kinnear J and Braysher M (1995). *Managing vertebrate pests: foxes*. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.
6. UFAW (1988). *Humane killing of animals* (4th Ed). Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, Potters Bar, England.

*Diagram 1: Recommended shot placements for foxes*

**Note:** Head shots (temporal or frontal) should be used for shooting foxes caught in traps. See text for details.







## FOX006: Trapping of foxes using cage traps

### Box 1: Relevant state and territory animal welfare and related legislation relevant to the use of traps

#### New South Wales

##### [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979](#)

Use of steel-jaw traps is prohibited. Trapping with padded-jaw traps, cage traps and treadle snares is permitted.

#### Queensland

##### [Animal Care and Protection Act 2001](#)

Steel-jaw traps are not prohibited traps.

#### Australian Capital Territory

##### [Animal Welfare Act 1992](#)

Use of steel-jaw traps is prohibited. Trapping with padded-jaw traps, cage traps and treadle snares is permitted.

#### Northern Territory

##### [Animal Welfare Act 2000](#)

Use of steel-jaw traps is prohibited. Trapping with padded-jaw traps is permitted.

#### Tasmania

##### [Animal Welfare Act 1993](#)

Leg-hold traps and snares are prohibited.

#### South Australia

##### [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985](#)

Small steel-jaw traps are prohibited. Large steel-jaw traps are prohibited in most areas except for wild dog control along the dingo fence and for research purposes. The large steel-jaw traps are required to be bound with cloth soaked strychnine or modified.

#### Victoria

##### [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986](#)

##### [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008](#)

Mandatory features of traps, conditions of use, inspection periods and where traps may be set are specified for all trap types. All steel-jaw traps are prohibited. Padded traps are permitted for wild dogs, foxes and rabbits. Confinement traps, net traps and rodent kill traps are permitted. Lethal snares are illegal. Non-kill snares and kill traps require Ministerial approval.

#### Western Australia

##### [Animal Welfare Act 2002](#)

##### [Agriculture and Related Resources Protection \(Traps\) Regulations 1982](#)

Steel-jaw traps are permitted for wild dog control. The jaws must be bound with a cloth soaked in strychnine. Only padded steel-jawed traps are permitted for fox control and use in research programs. Permits are required to set traps in metropolitan areas. Neck snares are illegal.

Invasive Animals Ltd has taken care to validate the accuracy of the information at the date of publication [January 2013]. This information has been prepared with care but it is provided "as is", without warranty of any kind, to the extent permitted by law.

FOX006

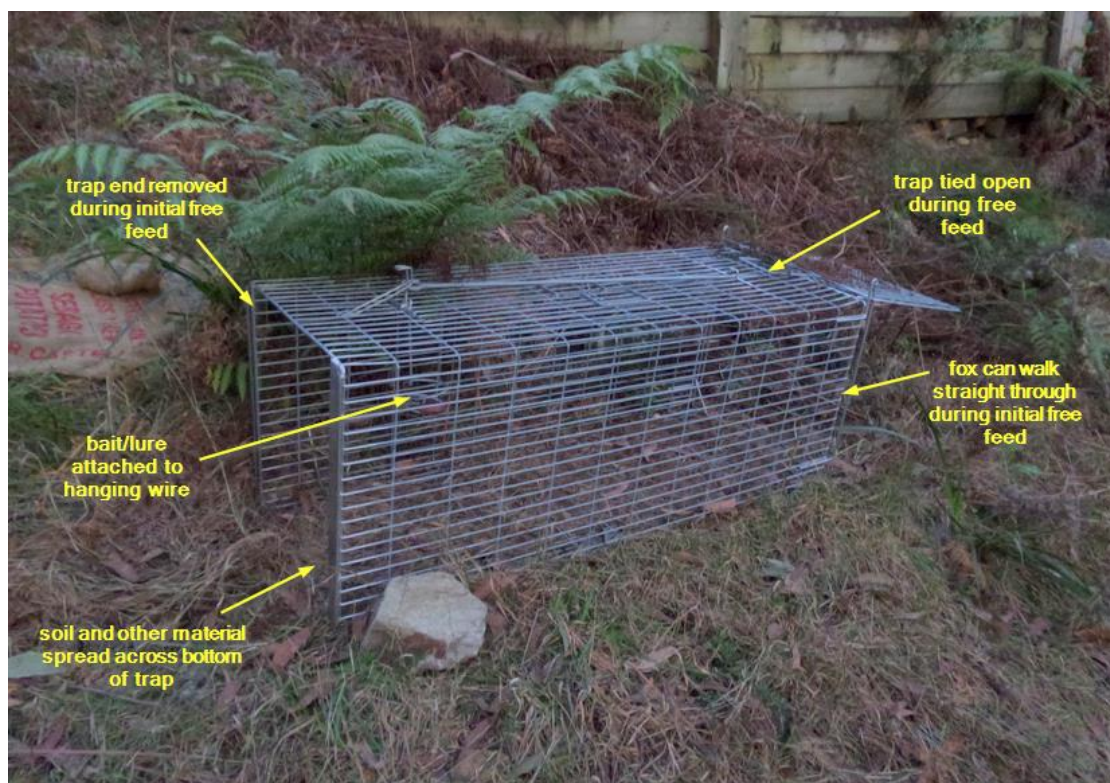
Revised June 2012

### **Prior to setting up the trap**

- 1) Watch “A guide to trapping foxes”:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybYyJlhFOek&t=9s>
- 2) Ensure you have a euthanasia plan with a local vet or an individual with a firearms licence. There may be legal restrictions on discharging firearms, check with your local Police as permission may be necessary.
- 3) Organise a fox movement permit by calling Local Land Services (02) 4724 2100.
- 4) Register with FeralScan <https://www.feralscan.org.au/>. You should keep a log of when you set and check your trap.
- 5) If a daily check of your trap is not possible (eg. if you are going away for the weekend), ensure the trap is closed.

### **Setting up the trap**

- 6) When you are moving or touching the trap wear gloves to avoid disease and reduce scent.
- 7) Ensure the trap is in good working order and moving parts work smoothly.



### **Trap placement and baiting**

- 8) Place the trap in an area that is easy to check every morning, e.g. close to the chicken shed or on a path you know the fox travels.
- 9) Make sure the trap is sheltered to reduce stress to the fox, e.g. placing the trap among bushes or cover with hessian cloth, branches, leaves etc.
- 10) Ensure the trap is stable – eg. secure the base with steel pegs into the ground to ensure it won't move or able to be rocked or pushed over.
- 11) Open both ends of the trap and secure the entries open so that the fox can move through freely.



- 12) Cover the trap floor with soil and leaf litter to help disguise the wire floor and make the fox less cautious about entering the trap.
- 13) “Free feeding” before setting the trap rewards the fox when it enters the trap. To do this, secure food, or other lures within the trap. Food lures can include chicken wings, fried chicken, a small tin of partially opened cat food or other types of meat. Replace food lures every 1-2 days. Other lures can include visual lures (eg. a mirror or shiny/colourful materials), sounds or smells. If one type of lure doesn’t work, try different types to determine what the fox is interested in.
- 14) If you have a motion sensor camera, set it up close to the trap to see if foxes are coming close to or in the trap and what lures attract them most.
- 15) When you know the fox is entering the trap, close one end and continue to use the food/lure in the trap to see if the fox continues to enter.
- 16) Record all fox activity on the FoxScan/FeralScan website or mobile phone app.
- 17) When the fox is comfortable entering the trap, you can now set it. Inform the person helping you with euthanasia to make sure they are aware you are trapping and are available.
- 18) Traps must be checked at least once a day. Check the trap every morning, and evening if possible, and continue to replace food lures every 1-2 days. Record your observations and the dates/times you check the trap in FoxScan and/or in your written log. It is inhumane to leave any animal in a trap unnecessarily

#### **Euthanasia and movement plan**

- 19) **When a fox is trapped**, call the person helping you with euthanasia to let them know you are coming (ie. vet or individual with a firearms licence). If a non-target species is accidentally trapped, it should be released unharmed.
- 20) Calmly and quietly approach the trap wearing gloves. Avoid distressing the fox. If it isn’t already covered, place a cover over the trap to calm the fox and avoid contact with it.
- 21) Secure the trap in or on your vehicle and take it to the prearranged location for euthanasia. If the trap is inside the vehicle, place a tarp underneath the trap.  
*Note: Shooting should only be performed by skilled operators who have the necessary experience with firearms and who hold the appropriate licenses and accreditation. There may be legal restrictions on discharging a firearm in certain areas, and police permission may be necessary.*
- 22) If possible, collect and record relevant information about the fox in FoxScan.



## Safe work method statement

<b>Job Task Summary:</b>  Use of cage trap to control European foxes ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	<b>This SWMS is applicable to the following worker type:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> employee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> contractor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> volunteer
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> student	<input type="checkbox"/> visitor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other
	<b>SWMS completed by:</b> Alison Towerton			
	<b>Site:</b> Blue Mountains – Various sites <b>Date:</b> 14/4/2020			

### How to complete the form:

1. Discuss with relevant workers the steps, and associated hazards, risks and controls
2. In the 'Procedural steps', list the work steps in sequence of how they will be carried out
3. In the 'Possible hazards', list the hazards and risks for each step
4. In 'R1' rate the risk without controls using the risk matrix (see over page)
5. In the 'Safety controls' list how the hazards will be controlled and who is responsible to implement the controls
6. In 'R2' rate the risk with controls (residual risk) using the risk matrix (see over page)
7. Specify other requirements for the task
8. Each person involved with this task must sign acknowledging that they have understood the steps

		R1 Risk without controls		R2 Risk with controls	
PROCEDURAL STEP(S)	POSSIBLE HAZARD(S)	R1	SAFETY CONTROL(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	R2
Site inspection, instruction, induction and/or working in an outdoor environment	➤ Slip, trip or fall including uneven, unstable surface, wet surface, slippery ground and untidy work area	2B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site assessment</li> <li>Site induction</li> <li>Ensure appropriate PPE is worn – long pants, long sleeve shirt and wide brimmed hat</li> <li>Be alert to potential dangers</li> <li>Appropriate torches/lights to be used</li> </ul>	Employee Contractor Volunteer Student Other	3B
	➤ Heights	1B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to be restricted on or near cliffs or steep gullies greater than 2m high</li> </ul>		2C
	➤ Water bodies	1B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep away from water hazards</li> <li>Recommend that no one works near water</li> </ul>		2C
	➤ Bites and stings from insects, animals and stinging plants	1A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure correct PPE is worn – appropriate closed in shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirt and gloves</li> <li>Do not disturb rocks, logs and debris unnecessarily</li> <li>Avoid the area when there are seasonal peaks of activity of snakes and insects</li> <li>Carry a complete first aid kit</li> <li>Avoid known allergenic plants</li> <li>Apply appropriate first aid</li> </ul>		2B
	➤ Exposure to the elements	3A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure appropriate PPE is worn – long pants, long sleeve shirt and wide brimmed hat</li> <li>Wear clothing appropriate to the conditions.</li> <li>Drink water frequently</li> <li>50+ sunscreen ought to be worn</li> </ul>		4A



PROCEDURAL STEP(S)	POSSIBLE HAZARD(S)	R1	SAFETY CONTROL(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	R2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Working in isolation</li> <li>➤ Traffic</li> </ul>	2B  1B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take appropriate breaks when temperature &gt; 30°C, stop work when &gt; 37°C till sustained decrease occurs</li> <li>• Carry a mobile phone and first aid kit</li> <li>• Advise someone of work location and estimated time of return</li> <li>• Wear night time high visibility safety vest when working within 3m of a road</li> </ul>		4B  2B
Fox cage trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Operation of trap</li> <li>➤ Manual handling</li> <li>➤ Bites/scratches from animal</li> <li>➤ Sharp objects</li> <li>➤ Injury to bystanders</li> </ul>	4B  4B  3B  3B  3B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operator to observe all relevant safety/humane treatment of animals guidelines relating to trapping of animals</li> <li>• Operator competent – DPI SOP</li> <li>• Use headlamps and torches if appropriate</li> <li>• Cage trapped foxes only to be destroyed using methods outlined in DPI SOP</li> <li>• Ensure correct manual handling techniques are used when handling traps</li> <li>• Use trailer/vehicle to carry traps as close to site as possible</li> <li>• Observe the animal's behaviour before attempting to pick up the cage trap and place a cover (e.g. blanket or shade cloth) over the trap to keep the animal calm.</li> <li>• Operator competent – DPI SOP</li> <li>• Ensure correct PPE is worn – appropriate closed in shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirt and gloves</li> <li>• AVOID ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE TRAPPED ANIMAL</li> <li>• Ensure correct PPE is worn – appropriate closed in shoes, long pants, long sleeve shirt and gloves</li> <li>• Cage traps to be replaced as required</li> <li>• Ensure traps are not on tracks where people can trip over them</li> <li>• Appropriate lighting on traps</li> </ul>	Employee Contractor Volunteer Student Other	4C  4C  4B  3C  3C
Disposing of the cage trapped fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Driving to another location (eg. Veterinarian) to dispose of fox (accident and road conditions)</li> </ul>	1B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver's Licence</li> <li>• Appropriate Fox Transport Permit acquired from Greater Sydney Local Land Services</li> <li>• Car is registered and complies with regulations</li> <li>• Tyre pressure, lights, wipers checked, seat adjusted appropriately</li> <li>• Driver to obey the traffic laws and drive to the conditions</li> <li>• Do not use mobile phones in a moving vehicle (unless hands free)</li> <li>• AVOID ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE TRAPPED ANIMAL</li> </ul>	Employee Contractor Volunteer Student Other	2B

WHS RISK MATRIX						
		Severity - Consequences				
		1	2	3	4	
		Kill or Disable	Serious injury - long term illness	Medical treatment - several days off	Minor first aid	
Probability - Likelihood	A	Very likely - could happen anytime	1A	2A	3A	4A
	B	Likely - could happen sometime	1B	2B	3B	4B
	C	Unlikely - could rarely happen	1C	2C	3C	4C
	D	Very unlikely - could happen, but probably never will	1D	2D	3D	4D

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS		
<b>HIGHEST</b>  <b>Level 1</b> Eliminate the hazards	 <b>Level 2</b> Substitute the hazard with something safer Isolate the hazard from people Reduce the risks through engineering controls	<b>MOST</b>  <b>Level 3</b> Reduce exposure to the hazard using administrative actions Use personal protective equipment <b>LEAST</b>
 <b>LOWEST</b>	<b>Level of health and safety protection</b>   <b>Reliability of control measures</b>	

OTHER JOB REQUIREMENTS
List staff or resident skills/competencies and licences required for safe job performance: ➤ Drivers Licence ➤ First Aid Certification (preferred) ➤ 4WD Training Course (if driving in remote locations and on unsealed roads)
Relevant codes of practice, legislation standards or critical risk controls that may be applicable: ➤ Legislation: Work Health and Safety Act 2011 Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 ➤ Codes of practice: First Aid in the workplace
List items of plant/equipment/tools required: ➤ Cage trap, shovel ➤ Meat bait and / or lure ➤ Cover (e.g. shade cloth or blanket) ➤ Relevant PPE
Maintenance checks, site/workplace inspections required: ➤ First Aid kit is current and complete with no items passed their expiry date ➤ Certifications of employees or residents are current
Additional approvals, certificates, WorkCover approvals/permits required e.g. confined spaces, working at heights, hot works etc: N/A
Has a risk assessment been completed for any work involving confined spaces, electrical work or diving work Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



PPE required:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eye protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen
<input type="checkbox"/> Overalls	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard hat/helmet	<input type="checkbox"/> Hi visibility vest	<input type="checkbox"/> Lab coat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety footwear (enclosed or steel cap)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Appropriate clothing e.g. long sleeve shirt and long pants, broad brimmed hat and sunscreen	

APPROVAL (Officer, Manager, Supervisor i.e. person responsible for ensuring compliance with SWMS)		
Name:	Signature:	Date:

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT		
NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE

## Step 4. Contact the Group to Participate in the Program

If you would like to be involved in the program send an email to [bluemtn.fox@gmail.com](mailto:bluemtn.fox@gmail.com). The group has cage traps available to loan. You can also participate in the program if you have your own cage trap.

You will need to provide a phone number to be contacted on to arrange a time for delivery and/or training on the use of a cage trap.

If you are using a loan cage trap, you will be trained on how to use the cage trap when it is delivered. This will take between 30 minutes to 1 hour. You may also be provided with a loan camera to assist in monitoring fox behaviour around the trap and will receive basic camera trap training.

However, before this, you will need to:

- watch the video “A guide to cage trapping”
- register with FeralScan
- read the documentation
- read and understand the “Cage trap loan / use agreement” form. You will need to sign this when the trap is delivered.

If you are able to transport the fox to be euthanised, please fill out the form “Transporting pest animals for humane destruction” (Step 5.) and scan or photograph a copy for approval to [admin.greatersydney@lfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.greatersydney@lfs.nsw.gov.au).

If you have your own cage trap you will still be required to receive training, read the documentation and sign the “Cage trap loan / use agreement”.

## Step 5. Approval to Transport a Pest Animal

If you are able to transport the fox to be euthanised, please fill out this form and scan or photograph a copy for approval to [admin.greatersydney@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.greatersydney@lls.nsw.gov.au).



### Biosecurity

Biosecurity safeguards our economy, environment and community from the impact of pests, diseases, weeds and contaminants. Biosecurity is a shared responsibility, everybody has a role to play in protecting NSW from biosecurity risks.

Under the 2017 Biosecurity Regulation, some pest species must be managed specifically. For example, it is illegal for a person to keep, move or release a feral pig, wild rabbit, wild deer or European red fox.

☐ Fox ☐ Rabbit Other

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Organisation (if applicable)

Applicant ☐ Landholder / Resident  
☐ Council  
☐ Contractor  
☐ Community Group  
☐ Government

### Trapping foxes

Where a fox is trapped as part of a control program and cannot be humanely destroyed on-site, approval by a Local Land Services Authorised Officer must be obtained to move the pest animal to a site for humane destruction (for example a veterinarian's practice).

To obtain approval fill out this form and email to [admin.greatersydney@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.greatersydney@lls.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 795 299 for more information. A Local Land Services Authorised Officer will contact you within 72 hours of submission

- You must have a plan in place for the humane destruction of the animal prior to setting the trap
- If applicable, Vets should be contacted prior to taking the animal to the clinic
- The pest animal must be transported directly to the place of destruction
- The pest animal must be transported securely with minimal disturbance and stress
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to renew the approval
- If a person is caught transporting a wild pest animal without the permit being submitted penalties will apply

Approval start date

☐ 1 month ☐ 3 month

Other

 [facebook.com/GreaterSydneyLLS](https://facebook.com/GreaterSydneyLLS)  
 [twitter.com/lls\\_sydney](https://twitter.com/lls_sydney)  
[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/greatersydney](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/greatersydney)

 **Local Land Services**

March 2020



## CAGE TRAP LOAN / USE AGREEMENT

Upper Blue Mountains Fox Control Group  
(referred to below as the Group)

PARTICIPANT NAME: .....

PROPERTY ADDRESS: .....

EMAIL: ..... PHONE NUMBER: .....

### CAGE TRAP:

☐ Loan                      Type: ☐ standard    ☐ large

Trap ID number: ..... Loan period: ..... MONTHS

Fee Structure: Loan is FREE. Cost for repair or replacement of a trap is \$150 (includes GST)

Date loaned: ..... Date to be returned: ..... Date returned: .....

☐ I AM USING MY OWN CAGE TRAP

### CAMERA:

☐ Loan – includes ..... rechargeable batteries, SIM card and strap

Camera ID number: ..... Loan period: ..... MONTHS

Date loaned: ..... Date to be returned: ..... Date returned: .....

I, the above, acknowledge I have received / have a cage trap, described above and agree, as a fox control program participant, to use the cage trap subject to the conditions below.

#### Conditions of Cage Trap Loan:

1. The cage trap is on loan for a maximum period of \_\_\_\_\_ months as stated above from the date of pickup, unless otherwise arranged
2. The cage trap must be returned in the condition it was loaned out. Before using the cage trap the recipient of the trap shall further examine the trap and satisfy him/herself as to its quality and fit for purpose. If defective or unsuitable, the trap shall be returned immediately.
3. The cage trap is the responsibility of the participant. If the cage trap suffers loss or damage during the loan period the recipient will pay to the Group the amount described below for repair or replacement. The recipient will report any damage to the equipment as soon as possible after the event.
4. The participant acknowledges that safety information and operating instructions on the cage trap were provided at the time of loan.

#### Conditions of Cage Trap Use (all participants):

5. The participant accepts full responsibility for the safe operation of the equipment.
6. When set, operational responsibilities include:
  - a. Traps will be set out of public view
  - b. Traps will be checked each morning and when necessary at dusk and/or during the day

- c. A log of when the trap is set will be kept including check dates and times, using at least one of the following methods (tick which method/s will be used):
    - i. FoxScan ☐
    - ii. paper form kept by the recipient (with date/time, open/closed, location) ☐
7. The Group accepts no responsibility for any damage, injury or costs incurred to any person, property or stock as a result of the use of the equipment and the participant agrees to indemnify the Group and its members from all such liability for any such damage, injury or loss.
8. The participant will abide by the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*, *Local Land Services Act 2013*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and all other Acts and Regulations applicable to the capture and control of pest animals. Failure to do so may result in prosecution.
9. The agreement may not be transferred or assigned to any other party without consent from the Group.
- 10. In order to acknowledge the broad views of our community, social media or other forms of media, must not be used to report any aspect of trapping activity or the program.**
11. If not previously attended, the participant must attend the next available fox trapping workshop delivered by Local Land Services.

I acknowledge that I have received copies of the following information relating to the safe and ethical use of cage traps, which I have read and understood, and undertaken the tasks as listed:

- ☐ Viewed the cage trapping video prior to trap delivery: <https://youtu.be/ybYyJlhFOek>
- ☐ Registered online – FeralScan
- ☐ Standard Operating Procedure - FOX006 trapping of foxes using cage traps
- ☐ Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for cage trapping foxes
- ☐ Cage trap guidelines
- ☐ Transporting pest animals for human destruction (if required)
- ☐ Training on the use of the cage trap upon delivery
- ☐ Camera and training/information to assist in monitoring fox behaviour around the trap
- ☐ Agree that cage trapping program activity/results will be not be reported in media/social media

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE: ..... DATE: .....

GROUP REPRESENTATIVE: .....

***If you have any questions about the program, or the operation of the cage trap, please contact the Group's representative below or email [bluemtn.fox@gmail.com](mailto:bluemtn.fox@gmail.com)***

GROUP REP. NAME: ..... PHONE: .....

DocRefNo ..... (office database)

## CAGE TRAP LOAN / USE AGREEMENT

Upper Blue Mountains Fox Control Group  
(referred to below as the Group)

PARTICIPANT NAME: .....

PROPERTY ADDRESS: .....

EMAIL: ..... PHONE NUMBER: .....

### CAGE TRAP:

☐ Loan                      Type: ☐ standard    ☐ large

Trap ID number: ..... Loan period: ..... MONTHS

Fee Structure: Loan is FREE. Cost for repair or replacement of a trap is \$150 (includes GST)

Date loaned: ..... Date to be returned: ..... Date returned: .....

☐ I AM USING MY OWN CAGE TRAP

### CAMERA:

☐ Loan – includes ..... rechargeable batteries, SIM card and strap

Camera ID number: ..... Loan period: ..... MONTHS

Date loaned: ..... Date to be returned: ..... Date returned: .....

I, the above, acknowledge I have received / have a cage trap, described above and agree, as a fox control program participant, to use the cage trap subject to the conditions below.

#### Conditions of Cage Trap Loan:

1. The cage trap is on loan for a maximum period of \_\_\_\_\_ months as stated above from the date of pickup, unless otherwise arranged
2. The cage trap must be returned in the condition it was loaned out. Before using the cage trap the recipient of the trap shall further examine the trap and satisfy him/herself as to its quality and fit for purpose. If defective or unsuitable, the trap shall be returned immediately.
3. The cage trap is the responsibility of the participant. If the cage trap suffers loss or damage during the loan period the recipient will pay to the Group the amount described below for repair or replacement. The recipient will report any damage to the equipment as soon as possible after the event.
4. The participant acknowledges that safety information and operating instructions on the cage trap were provided at the time of loan.

#### Conditions of Cage Trap Use (all participants):

5. The participant accepts full responsibility for the safe operation of the equipment.
6. When set, operational responsibilities include:
  - a. Traps will be set out of public view
  - b. Traps will be checked each morning and when necessary at dusk and/or during the day



- c. A log of when the trap is set will be kept including check dates and times, using at least one of the following methods (tick which method/s will be used):
    - i. FoxScan ☐
    - ii. paper form kept by the recipient (with date/time, open/closed, location) ☐
7. The Group accepts no responsibility for any damage, injury or costs incurred to any person, property or stock as a result of the use of the equipment and the participant agrees to indemnify the Group and its members from all such liability for any such damage, injury or loss.
8. The participant will abide by the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*, *Local Land Services Act 2013*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, and all other Acts and Regulations applicable to the capture and control of pest animals. Failure to do so may result in prosecution.
9. The agreement may not be transferred or assigned to any other party without consent from the Group.
- 10. In order to acknowledge the broad views of our community, social media or other forms of media, must not be used to report any aspect of trapping activity or the program.**
11. If not previously attended, the participant must attend the next available fox trapping workshop delivered by Local Land Services.

I acknowledge that I have received copies of the following information relating to the safe and ethical use of cage traps, which I have read and understood, and undertaken the tasks as listed:

- ☐ Viewed the cage trapping video prior to trap delivery: <https://youtu.be/ybYyJlhFOek>
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- ☐ Cage trap guidelines
- ☐ Transporting pest animals for human destruction (if required)
- ☐ Training on the use of the cage trap upon delivery
- ☐ Camera and training/information to assist in monitoring fox behaviour around the trap
- ☐ Agree that cage trapping program activity/results will be not be reported in media/social media

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE: ..... DATE: .....

GROUP REPRESENTATIVE: .....

***If you have any questions about the program, or the operation of the cage trap, please contact the Group's representative below or email [bluemtn.fox@gmail.com](mailto:bluemtn.fox@gmail.com)***

GROUP REP. NAME: ..... PHONE: .....

DocRefNo ..... (office database)

## Step 7. Cage Trap and Training

When your trap is delivered you will be trained on how to use it. This will take between 30 minutes to 1 hour. If you are provided with a loan camera, you will also receive basic camera trap training to assist in monitoring fox behaviour around the trap.

Please note that precautions will be made relating to the COVID-19 virus and strict guidelines for property visits will be followed. These will be discussed and arranged prior to any visits.

## Step 8. FoxScan Instructions and Trap Check Log

Register to use FoxScan at the following web site - <https://www.feralscan.org.au/>

To use FoxScan on your smart device to log your trap checks, please follow these instructions. Note that this information is private. Please contact us for more assistance on the number provided above.

Record when you set the trap under "Enter control" and use "trap set"

Use the same method to check the trap each day.

If you are away for the weekend or can't check the trap the next day, then "un-set" the trap (for eg. remove the back door) when you check it and select trap withdrawn.

You may want to record the lure you are using

Hit submit to complete your record

This information is available to you under your login via the FoxScan website under "MyData"

**Fox Scan**  
Welcome ATowarton

Enter Sighting Repeat Sighting  
Enter Damage Repeat Damage  
Enter Control Repeat Control  
Profile Website

**Fox Control** Submit

3. Site number  
backyard

4. Control techniques used?

- ☐ Ground baiting with 1080
- ☐ Ground baiting with PAPP
- ☐ Aerial baiting with 1080
- ☐ Canid Pest Ejector
- ☐ Trapping using padded-jaw traps
- ☒ Trapping using cage traps
  - ☒ Trap set
  - ☐ Trap disturbed
  - ☐ Trap withdrawn
  - ☐ Fox trapped
  - ☐ Other species trapped
- ☐ Ground shooting
- ☐ Livestock guardian animals
- ☐ Den fumigation
- ☐ Fox drives

5. Notes  
It is useful to enter the lure you are using

6. Upload a photograph  
No photo chosen

Submit

**Control Sites** [Export Control Data]

Marker	Date Inspected	Notes	Edit
Ⓢ	13/10/2017		
Ⓢ	13/10/2017		
Ⓢ	13/10/2017		

## Cage trap check log

Address:

[illegible]



## Step 9. Using a Remote Camera

You may be provided with a camera to help you observe fox, and other species', behaviour around the cage trap. You can improve the chance of trapping a fox by changing the way you use the trap.

This video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osy6cd-cQgk&t=3s> provides an overview of the types of remote cameras and how to set them up, or you can read the PestSmart camera trap manual:

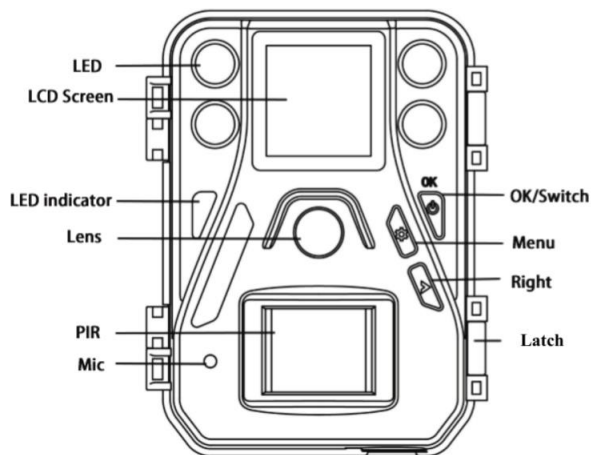
[https://www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CameraTrapManual\\_2012.pdf](https://www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CameraTrapManual_2012.pdf)

- The camera uses an SD card that you can look at on the camera (this may be hard to see) or your computer (you will need an SD card reader)
- The camera comes with rechargeable batteries that should last more than a month
- For further information, read the manual in the box
- The camera has been
  - set with the correct time
  - set to take 20 second video
- If the settings change, let your group contact know or try to fix the problem by reading the manual in the box or visiting <https://help.kogan.com/hc/en-us/articles/360001880387>

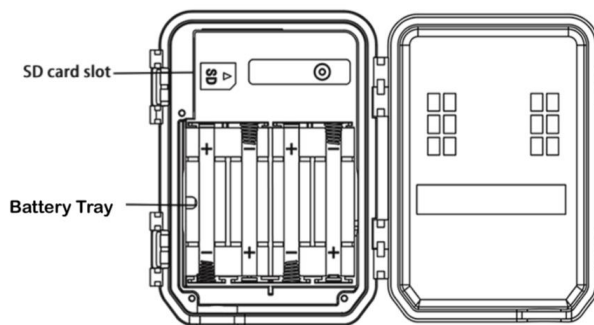
Operating the camera:

- Press the "OK" button once to see if the batteries are charged – red light flashes each time
- Hold the "OK" button to turn on
- Automatically after 20 seconds the camera will switch to "hunting mode" to start operation (red LED flashes 10 times)
- Remove the card to look at the videos (doesn't seem to mind being removed when camera still on, contrary to the manual)
- Replace card once videos have been reviewed
- Consider keeping any good/interesting videos to share with group
- Recharge batteries when required or organise with group contact to swap for charged set from BMCC.

Front View



Internal View



Don't forget to report any fox sightings you capture on your camera images to FoxScan <https://www.feralscan.org.au/>.