



# Animal Ethics

## Trapping and Baiting Feral Pigs

**The information in this factsheet has been collated directly from the National Standard Operating Procedures (NATSOPs) and Codes of Practice (CoPs) for feral pigs written by the Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group (2024) and available on the [PestSmart](#) website listed below under the Additional Online Resources section.**

## General Guidelines

*Note: Information below is current as of February 2025*

Trapping of feral pigs in Australia has long been used as a control measure. There are two main live trap designs that are useful for capturing feral pigs: panel and silo traps. Both types of traps are made of steel mesh and incorporate a one-way entrance. Details on the design and construction of these traps are available from [Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW](#) by NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Poison baiting is a cost-effective method used to reduce large feral pig populations. Poisoning with sodium Mono fluoroacetate (1080) is considered to be one of the most effective methods of quickly reducing feral pig numbers. 1080 is an odourless, tasteless white powder that has a special dye added for identification of the toxin. It is incorporated into a suitable bait material and offered along a trail or in a bait station. Free feeding with unpoisoned bait is performed for a number of days prior to laying poisoned baits and is an essential step in a baiting program. A disadvantage of using 1080 is that it carries an elevated risk of non-target poisoning due to the large doses required to kill feral pigs.

There are a number of ways to reduce off-target poisoning using target specific feeders, disposing of carcasses and the use of new poisons (HOGGONE® containing sodium nitrite)

## Why are trapping and baiting used?

Trapping and baiting are used as an integral part of integrated feral pig management in conjunction with other control methods.

### Trapping

- Trapping is effective for removing feral pigs where poisons cannot be used and at the end of control programs to remove smaller pig populations.

- Trapping is used for feral pig research (GPS tracking, biosecurity)
- Traps are easily constructed with materials that can be found around farms or ranger bases.
- Trapping can be used as an index of abundance by comparing trapping events over time. This can be measured through catch per unit effort (CPUE).

### Baiting

- Baiting is considered the most cost-effective method for feral pig control and is an important part of integrated feral pig management in areas where other control methods are not feasible i.e. ground shooting, trapping and aerial shooting.
- Baiting is used as the first initial control method to reduce large populations of feral pigs which is then followed by control methods such as trapping and culling to keep population of feral pigs down.

## When to perform trapping and baiting?

### Trapping

- Trapping is time consuming and requires consistency and should only be used if they can be checked regularly.
- Trapping is to be used to capture smaller sounders that cannot be removed with other control methods. This becomes an additional control method in integrated pig management.
- Trapping can be used to capture and remove localised sounders.
- Trapping is to be used for research methods such as GPS collaring, ear tagging, taking samples, etc.
- Trapping is more successful when food and water are scarce, and pigs are more willing to eat the baits/lures inside the traps.

### Baiting

- Poison baiting is the most cost-effective way to remove larger feral pig populations in line with other control methods and is generally used as an initial control method.
- Poisoning is primarily used as an initial control method whilst other methods such as trapping, ground shooting and exclusion are used as follow-up techniques to keep pig numbers at a low level.
- Baiting with 1080 should not be used in areas where there is an unacceptably high risk to humans and companion animals, such as urban/residential environments.

- 1080 use is restricted in areas where there is an elevated risk of poisoning domestic stock and wildlife.
- The best time to conduct a poisoning program is when surface water is scarce, and pastures have dried off. At this time pigs will be concentrated near permanent water points and are more likely to eat bait due to hunger. It can be difficult to get feral pigs to take or find bait when there is abundant green feed.
- To achieve maximum population reductions, it is also recommended that broad scale control programs be conducted prior to breeding, which usually peaks between May and October. In south-eastern Australia, late autumn is usually the most effective period for baiting pigs.

## Who can undertake trapping and baiting?

To undertake trapping and baiting in Australia, individuals generally need to be a landholder, Rangers, licensed pest control operator, or a representative of a relevant government or conservation agency. Specific permits and certifications are usually required depending on the methods used (e.g., poisons) and the species targeted.

In the Northern Territory and Queensland, trapping for feral pig removal requires no permits unless it is being used for training and/or research purposes

Western Australia requires a permit to trap declared pest species, including feral pigs. For more information, see [Application-Permit to-trap-declared-pest-species](#).

For precise regulations, it's crucial to refer to the relevant state or territory legislation and any local government rules, as these can differ.





# How can Indigenous Ranger Groups undertake these activities?

## Trapping

- Indigenous ranger groups can conduct pig trapping for the removal of feral pigs.
- Note: animal ethics are needed if trapping and baiting is to be used for research or training (educational) purposes in QLD, NT, and WA
- Trapping materials are generally easy to come across at ranger bases (e.g. reinforcing mesh and star pickets for the construction of corral traps)
- Trapping does require work and consistency to successfully trap pigs
- Trapping is also an effective way to introduce rangers and landowners to small scale feral pig management around important country such as springs and waterholes.

## Baiting

- Baiting of feral pigs with 1080 can only be carried out under specific permits issued by the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and under Commonwealth legislation (Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994). Additionally state approvals and permits are required and vary depending on approved agencies (see below approved agencies)
- 1080 is a restricted chemical product (under Regulation 45 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulations 1995) and is listed as a Schedule 7 – Dangerous Poison under the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP). These listings require special precautions in the manufacture, handling, storage, and use of 1080, along with specific regulations regarding labelling or availability.
- Handling of 1080 powder or concentrated solution and preparation of baits must only be performed by authorised persons who have the appropriate training.
- Prepared and manufactured 1080 baits can only be obtained through authorised government agencies:
  - o In Queensland, Commercial 1080 or PAPP baits can be purchased from licensed S7 retailers, provided the buyer meets the requirements of the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019. Some local governments offer a 1080 baiting service for landholders in their area. to obtain a list of retailers, search the local government directory for contact details for your local council.

- o In WA, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- o In the NT, the Chemical Services Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
- Ranger organisations will require training to obtain handling and storage of S7 chemicals and the use of poisons such as 1080:
- In the NT, the 2 qualifications needed to obtain Pest Animal Control Authority (PAMA) are the Aus Chem qualification and one of the Cert III control pest animal units or similar
- Sodium Nitrite (HOGGONE®) only requires Cert III Aus Chem accreditation
- In Queensland, 3 units are needed AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals, AHCCHM307 – Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases, and AHCPMG312 – Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes. QLD Health Dept Standard- Competency requirements for authority holders dealing with poisons
- In Western Australia, training components required depend on the region in which you are conducting the baiting, which you need to contact your regional DPIRD pest officer for clarification. See Code of Practice for Safe Use and Management of Registered Pesticides containing 1080, Strychnine and PAPP for more information.
- Once appropriate qualifications are obtained, ranger groups can use poisons to target feral pigs in their feral pig management areas.

Refer to the NAILSMA Work, Health and Safety Training and Risk Mitigation Table for specific training units and legal guidelines for WA, NT and QLD.



## How do we measure their effectiveness?

There are various methods that can be used for monitoring effectiveness of trapping and baiting such as country condition (aerial imagery from aircraft or drones, photos taken from the ground) that record change of feral pig damage over time.

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) can be used for measuring the reduction of feral pigs from trapping and poisoning over time. Apps including Feral Counter and FeralPigScan can assist with data collection.

For other monitoring methods see [MONITORING TECHNIQUES FOR VERTEBRATE PESTS- Feral pigs](#)

## Community Education

It is important to work with Traditional Owners and community members and discuss any culturally and environmentally important sites that are starting to change due to feral pig interactions. Working together with community to discuss preferred control options is a great way of developing community education of feral animals and the impact they could have on important sites.



# Additional Online Resources

[Primary Industries Standing Committee Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Feral Livestock Animals](#)

[PestSmart- National Code of Practice for the humane control of feral pigs](#). This page contains the below resources as well as relevant Commonwealth and State or Territory legislation.

- [Glovebox Guide for Managing Feral Pigs](#)
- [Feral pig control methods humaneness matrix](#)
- [NATSOP-PIG001 National Standard Operating Procedure: Trapping of feral pigs](#)
- [NATSOP-PIG004 National Standard Operating Procedure: Poisoning of Feral Pigs with Sodium monofluoroacetate \(1080\)](#)
- [NATSOP-PIG005 National Standard Operating Procedure: Poisoning of Feral Pigs using PIGOOUT 1080 Baits](#)
- [NATSOP-PIG006 National Standard Operating Procedure: Poisoning of Feral Pigs with HOGGONE® Sodium nitrite Baits](#)

Record feral pig activity in [FeralPigScan](#)

[Feral Counter- Apps on Google Play](#) or [Feral Counter on the App Store](#)

[MONITORING TECHNIQUES FOR VERTEBRATE PESTS- Feral pigs](#)

Northern Territory

- [Controlling wild dogs and pest animals with 1080 poison | NT.GOV.AU](#)

Western Australia

- [Registered pesticide permits | Agriculture and Food](#)
- [RCP permit application form.pdf](#)

## Firearms Licensing

[National Guidelines Firearms- 2017 National Firearms Agreement](#) | Attorney-General's Department

Western Australia Government- [Licensing Services \(Firearms\)](#)

Queensland Government – [Weapons Licensing | QPS](#)

NT Government- [Licence and Permit Applications and Information | NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services](#)

## Firearms Training Providers

### Queensland

Cairns Firearms Safety Course  
0417395561 | [pgkl44@gmail.com](mailto:pgkl44@gmail.com)  
Cairns City, Queensland

Ballistic training Solutions Pty Ltd  
1300 738 098 | [ballistictraining.com.au](http://ballistictraining.com.au)  
Caloundra West, 4551 Queensland Australia

IMPACT- Townsville  
0417 069 961 | [impactfirearmstraining.com.au](http://impactfirearmstraining.com.au)

Asset College  
1300 731 602 | [Study@asset.edu.au](mailto:Study@asset.edu.au)  
[asset.edu.au](http://asset.edu.au)

### Northern Territory

[Firearms Training and Safety Course providers- NT](#)

Sureline Security & Firearms Training NT  
Humpty Doo, NT, 0836  
(08) 8988 2369 | 0427 612 789  
[surelinesecurity@bigpond.com](mailto:surelinesecurity@bigpond.com)

Australian Security Training (Gareth Graham)  
0412 387 178  
[gareth.graham@itscomm.com.au](mailto:gareth.graham@itscomm.com.au)

Survival and Field Safety Australia  
0400 296 179  
[mark.butler@westnet.com.au](mailto:mark.butler@westnet.com.au)



**Northern Territory *continued***

Paladin Firearm Solutions  
0428 588 515 | pat.paladin@gmail.com

Eagle Training Services (Gary Carter)  
0414 656 821  
gary@eagletraining.com.au

Morningstar Training (Mr David Farlam)  
0459 527 057  
info@morningstartraining.com.au

NT Firearms Training (Garry Miezis)  
0418 349 477 | garrym26941@bigpond.com

BLP Training & INLOC Training (Darren North)  
1300 257 477  
training@blpts.com.au  
operations@inlocgroup.com

**Western Australia**

Paragon Corporate Training  
C4, 58 Newcastle Street, Perth WA 6000  
08 9227 5125 | 041 718 6380  
craig@paragontraining.com.au

Core Training Group  
113 Belmont Ave, Belmont 6104  
Postal: PO Box 441,  
Forrestfield, WA, 6058  
(08) 6336 8080  
admin@coretraining.wa.edu.au

**National / Other**

All States Training  
(07) 4123 0415  
info@centralsafetytraining.com  
Queensland 4650

Pest Animal Control and Training  
(Stuart Boyd-Law)  
0408 463 425  
sboyd-law@bigpond.com

Firearm Safety and Training Council Ltd  
P.O. Box 393, Terrey Hills NSW 2084  
Phone: (02) 9486 3077 Fax: (02) 9486 3497  
training@firearmtraining.com.au  
[firearmtraining.com.au](http://firearmtraining.com.au)  
ABN: 24 051 891 724  
National Provider No: 91258

