

#### Introduction

This booklet aims to describe differences between dingoes and wild dogs, the problems wild dogs cause in Australia, and ways in which landholders can deal with the problem.

It explores the background of wild dogs, their breeding patterns, integrated control methods available and controlling wild dogs with DOGGONE® Wild Dog Bait.

DOGGONE® Wild Dog Bait is a pre-prepared 1080 bait registered nationally through the Agricultural Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for the control of wild dogs.

It is registered in all states and territories (ex Tas.) for use under permits issued by the relevant state or territory government agency responsible for feral animal control.

#### **Technical Input**

The information in this booklet has been collected and reviewed by a panel of experts in the field of feral animal control from most states and territories.

### Animal Control Technologies appreciates the input of the following individuals:

Lee Allen - Qld DNR&M, Peter Bird - SA APCC, DWLBC, Peter Fleming - NSW Agriculture, Ron Sinclair - SA APCC, DWLBC, Kevin Strong - Qld DNR&M, Kevin Baker - Yass RLPB, Tim Reeves - Cooma RLPB, Craig & Cynthia Young - Vanrook Station, John Thring - Coonabarabran, Bobbie Colrain - The Land Newspaper, Rural Press Group, John Armstrong - NT Cattlemens Association, Bill Stanford - QPWS.

Dr Linton Staples, Michelle Smith, Karen Pontin & Julia Rudolph - Animal Control Technologies.

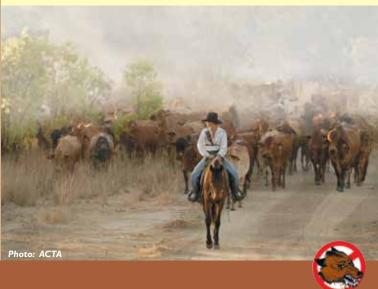
Written and compiled by Paul Crock for ACTA 2005.



Advice received by Animal Control Technologies from listed organisations does not constitute an endorsement of the product or the company and they do not bear any responsibility for, or the liability, from the end use of this booklet or the product. The information contained in this booklet is based on scientific literature and material produced to date, and is believed to be reliable. Animal Control Technologies and collaborating agencies assume no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the data contained herein.

			4			4
	$\sim$	n	4-	$\sim$	n	1-6
$\overline{}$	v		·	C		ts

4
5
6
9
10
11
12
14
16
18
20
27
28
30
32



#### The wild dog problem

The direct cost of wild dog predation on sheep and cattle enterprises has recently been estimated at \$A48 million annually.

The management and control of wild dogs is estimated to cost a further \$A16 million annually.

There are less obvious impacts of wild dogs such as their potential to interbreed with and dilute or corrupt the gene pool of pure-bred dingoes.

There are also serious risks posed by the transfer of several important diseases and parasites including rabies, hydatids, neospora, worms and mange, to livestock and humans.

#### **Problem dogs**

Wild dogs in Australia fall into three categories - dingoes, dingo-feral dog hybrids and domesticated dogs that have become feral due to either being deliberately released or lost.

The map below shows the spread and type of wild dogs across Australia: Darwin Townsville D) (D Fraser Island Brisbane Dog-proof В Distribution of Wild Dogs Common Uncommon Dingoes, hybrids and feral dogs Generally common, but high levels of control within parts of this zone mean that dingoes may be absent in certain areas. Known hybridization with feral dogs Area within recently rehabilitated Queensland Barrier Fence. Dingo numbers likely to decline. Naturally sparse Mostly pure dingoes - above dashed line Absent Source: BRS

#### The 'front line'

John Thring of Coonabarabran (below) has had a constant battle against wild dogs that has cost him dearly both financially and emotionally. He is now at the point where he is ready to give the sheep and wool enterprise away and move into beef production.

John estimates that wild dogs have killed at least 110 sheep over a three-year period, and mauled scores of others.

"The dogs inflict horrendous injuries on the sheep."





#### **Dingoes**

Though previously thought to have evolved from wolves, recent international DNA research has suggested that the dingo may have descended from domesticated dogs brought to Australia from southeast Asia or lava around 4-5,000 years ago.



Compared to native wildlife Tasmanian Devil species that have evolved in Australia over millions of years, the dingo is a very recent arrival. This creates debate between those who consider the dingo in Australian ecosystems as an introduced pest and others that consider them naturalised canids.

Whatever the origin of the dingo, its widespread colonisation of the mainland is one of several factors that may have contributed to the loss of our native marsupial

> Pure-bred dingo populations are under threat from crossbreeding with cross-bred wild dogs

carnivores such as the Tasmanian Tiger and Tasmanian Devil.

In very isolated arid areas, dingoes are still mostly pure-bred, having little or no contact with working dogs or dogs which may have strayed from hunting or domestic situations.

Even in these arid areas crossbreeding with feral domestic dogs is one of the greatest threats to maintaining pure-bred dingo populations.



#### Separating dingoes and agriculture

Dingoes were removed or excluded from most of Australia's pastoral zones soon after European settlement due to their impact on sheep flocks, although some isolated pockets of pure-bred dingoes still exist in national and state parks.



A gate on the Australian 'Dog Fence'.

In an attempt to restrict the movement of dingoes into the south-eastern wool growing areas, a barrier fence was constructed.

The 'Dog' or 'Barrier' Fence is the longest fence in the world stretching from the Great Australian Bight in South Australia to the NSW border, along the NSW borders with north eastern South Australia and southern western Queensland, and into southern Queensland.

> In areas north and west of the Dog Fence, dingoes still cause significant damage to wool and cattle enterprises by attacking livestock...

> > Photo: NSWAg

#### **Dingo hybrids**

The interbreeding of dingoes with hunting dogs and working dogs either deliberately released or lost has resulted in populations of larger, stronger and possibly more aggressive wild dogs than the pure-bred dingo.

These cross-bred wild dogs may weigh in excess of 20kg and can be as large as 70kg.

Like dingoes, these large and potentially aggressive animals are serious predators of cattle, sheep and other livestock. They also inflict damage on native wildlife species such as small mammals, wallabies and kangaroos and ground-nesting birds.

There is increasing unease amongst experienced stockmen that such dogs are becoming bold enough to attack humans in isolated and remote locations.

Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines estimate that 50% of the wild dogs in south-east Queensland are dingo-hybrids.

In areas closer to settlement such as the Northern and Southern Tablelands of NSW, and the Victorian High Plains, cross-bred wild dogs are the dominant wild dog type.

The hybridisation of dingoes and domesticated dogs is placing increasing pressure on maintenance of pure-bred populations of dingoes in national parks.



#### Feral domestic dogs

Many domestic dogs are lost or deliberately released into the bush each year. Some of these have been bred for hunting and quickly adapt to the wild, often interbreeding with other wild dogs or dingoes.

Their interaction and experience with humans may make them bolder than pure-bred dingoes or other wild dogs, and while some easily adapt to hunting, feral domestic dogs often hunt easy to catch prey such as sheep and calves.

Photo: Yass RL

A large first generation crossbred wild dog

In response to

this threat every



A large first generation crossbred wild dog & pup trapped in the Brindabella ranges.

In Queensland, landholders have a legislated responsibility to control wild dogs.

landowner has the right to destroy dogs that are attacking their stock.

Feral domestic dogs breed with dingoes to create a larger more aggressive wild dog.

These dogs are less timid than pure dingoes and could pose a threat to bushwalkers and people working in remote bush areas.

A large cross-bred wild dog trapped in the Brindabella ranges outside Canberra.

Photo: Yass RLPB

## Ecology of dingoes and wild dogs

Wild dogs are opportunistic predators feeding on rabbits, macropods (kangaroos, wallabies etc), livestock including calves, sheep and lambs, as well as birds, reptiles and carrion.



Wild dogs often feed on macropods but will often eat easier to catch prey such as calves and lambs.

Wild dogs commonly live in groups or 'packs' from 2 to over 20, operating across a distinct 'home range'.

Members of the group are rarely seen together but may form smaller groups to hunt.

Home ranges within a pack may be shared, but the boundaries between groups or packs of dogs are rigorously defended.

Pure dingoes tend not to hunt in packs but may still cooperate to take down larger prey such as kangaroos or larger yearling cattle.

Photo: Cooma RLPB



#### **Breeding**

Dingoes and wild dogs breed from autumn through to late winter (May to August).

Dingoes come into oestrous once a year compared to feral domestic dogs that have two or more oestrous cycles per year. (Generally cross-bred wild dogs will only successfully raise one litter per year).

The gestation period of wild dogs ranges from 60-65 days. The average litter size is 5 (varies from 1-9 pups).

In a pack situation, the 'alpha' or lead female may kill the pups of younger females so other adult females can help rear her pups.

Pups are suckled for up to six weeks after birth. Depending on the season pups may remain close to their mothers for up to 12 months or until the next breeding season.



#### **Dispersal**

Juvenile wild dogs begin to look for new territories after six to eight months, during which time they are vulnerable to attack by older dogs in established territories, or to starvation.

Juvenile mortality at this stage is high compared to juveniles that stay with the pack until 12 months of age or more before dispersal.

Dingoes, like domestic dogs, don't develop adult canine teeth until 6 months of age. Any juveniles that have to fend for themselves without a decent set of teeth have difficulty





## Signs of stock damage

Dingoes in undisturbed areas are known to kill for need, but in areas where prey is plentiful they are also known to kill or maim more than can be eaten.



A disembowelled sheep on John Thring's property at Coonabarabran, NSW.

Cross-bred and domestic dogs are

even more prone to this behaviour so the damage caused can greatly exceed the feed requirements of the dogs.

Dogs often kill animals by crushing the trachea, but visible injuries are also commonly seen to the back of the neck, flanks, hind-quarters and legs.

Dogs attacking or harassing sheep typically attack the hind quarters of the animal, causing significant damage to the hind legs.

Blood flowing down the legs while the animal is still alive can be clearly distinguished from blood stains from where a predator has been feeding or chewing on the carcass.



Calves that have been attacked by dogs typically have damage to their throats and ears from where the dog has attempted to drag them down. Damage around the hind-quarters and tail is also common.

Where dog attack is suspected, removing the hide of the animal will usually expose significant damage under the skin associated with severe bruising, haemorrhage and puncture wounds.

The hidden damage to underlying tissues is easily underestimated as the surface wounds and skin punctures can appear minor.

Cattle with minimal apparent external signs of dog attack may have significant damage and internal scarring. Once the hide is removed this damage leads to down-grading of carcasses at the meat works.

Other less visible impacts of wild dogs on livestock industries include the down-grading of meat products such as offal from contamination by hydatid infection and other parasites or diseases transmitted by dogs.

Cattle for live export out of northern Australia are often rejected on the basis of damage and evidence of dog attack.

This causes significant financial hardship for cattle producers.



#### **Control options**

Control methods differ slightly between states, but the most commonly used methods are shooting, baiting and trapping.

In some areas bounties are still used to encourage wild dog control and to recompense and encourage hunters. Professional 'doggers' are also employed to track and control problem animals.

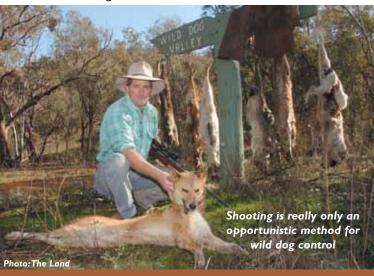
The use of traps is restricted in some states with strict guidelines that require daily checking or application of poison to trap jaws to ensure humane destruction of the trapped animals.



Trapping wild dogs is useful as part of integrated campaigns, but is costly and labour intensive.

Trapping is the only safe option in rural fringe areas where the use of guns or poison baits poses an unacceptable risk.

It is actively promoted as the most appropriate control method in these instances but can also be used in baited areas to catch residual dogs that have proved difficult to bait, or naive immigrants.



Modern foothold traps are very humane and very different to the old leg-hold 'steel-jawed' traps that are banned from use in most states.

If a landholder is opposed to baiting but will put a concerted effort in



A wild dog caught in a soft-jawed trap.

to trapping at the same time as a coordinated baiting program in the district, it is a better outcome than doing nothing to control the problem.

#### Importance of neighbourhood cooperation

Experience in Queensland has shown that control actions in isolation or over limited areas can even increase the magnitude and frequency of wild dog attacks on livestock if yearling dogs from adjacent territories looking to establish

their own 'patch' quickly move in.

These younger dogs lacking the hunting experience and pack size typically hunt in isolation, and find it easier to hunt livestock than wild prey.

The key to a successful wild dog campaign is using integrated control methods including baiting, trapping, shooting in a cooperative approach within local areas.

This will ensure that a high proportion of wild dogs are removed from the widest possible area.



## 1080 & baiting wild dogs

Baits containing sodium fluoroacetate or '1080' have been used in Australia since the 1950's to control introduced pests including rabbits, foxes & wild dogs.

Sodium fluoroacetate is found in some Australian native plants (some acacias and in *Gastrolobium* species).

Many native animals have evolved grazing on these plants for millions of years



1080 is the lead weapon against introduced species such as the fox.

and have developed some tolerance to the effects of fluoroacetate compared to more recently introduced species such as rabbits. Native predators of such herbivores have also evolved with some tolerance to fluoroacetate.

Introduced canids such as dogs and foxes are, however, highly susceptible to fluoroacetate.

Fluoroacetate is a simple substance (only one atom different from acetic acid) and is readily broken down in the environment, wet baits and in the carcasses by common moulds and bacteria leaving no long term environmental residues.

#### Mode of action

Once ingested by the wild dog fluoroacetate is quickly absorbed and transported to tissues where it is converted over several hours to a chemical that closely resembles a normal component of sugar metabolism.

This 'mimic' chemical is able to block enzymes that produce energy from sugars. This occurs at the cellular level and is not associated with any tissue damage.

After a delay of up to several hours - during which time the wild dog behaves normally - death occurs from the loss of energy to cells in the brain, heart and diaphragm.

### Preparing 1080 baits in the field

Preparation of traditional 'wet' meat or offal baits is often a messy and time-consuming operation for landholders and agency staff.

Preparing carefully cut pieces of meat (typically 250g) and dosing these with precise amounts of 1080 in the field is difficult, especially when cut lymph ducts and blood vessels can leak poison solution from the baits.

This leakage can pose a risk for operators and local working dogs. These 'wet' meat or offal

baits cannot be stored without freezing or refrigeration and must therefore be made fresh for each baiting round or dried out on racks before use.



Traditionally 1080 was delivered to wild dogs in fresh 'wet' meat or offal baits either injected or tumble rolled.

## Simplifying wild dog baiting

DOGGONE® Wild Dog Bait has been developed and is fully registered following requests from farmers and Government Agencies for a pre-prepared bait to simplify wild dog control.

DOGGONE® Wild Dog Bait is a manufactured meat-based bait.

Each bait is poisoned with precisely 6 milligrams (6/1000ths of a gram) of 1080.

One DOGGONE® bait is lethal to the largest cross-bred wild dog.



The exact dose of 1080 is pipetted into the centre of each DOGGONE® bait eliminating the risk of leakage compared to conventional 'wet' meat baits.





# How to conduct a DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baiting program

#### **Involving Neighbours**

Just as with many other vertebrate pests, wild dog control will be more effective if action is taken over a wide area, in coordinated campaigns. These synchronised campaigns reduce the burden on individual landholders and achieve a larger control area that helps reduce the rate of reinfestation.

Regulations regarding the use of '1080' and DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> Wild Dog Baits vary between states and territories. Consult the label for information specific to your state, and if still in doubt contact your local relevant government officer.



All neighbours must be notified before poison baits are laid, and baits must only be used on the land described in the indemnity form issued by the responsible Government Agency.

Unless approved by the relevant local authority, baits must not be laid on any stock route or land reserved for travelling stock.

Authorised Government Officers or other authorised persons may determine additional conditions and restrictions on use if local circumstances pose additional risks.

The supply of baits may be restricted if local risks are considered to be unacceptable.

Misuse of baits is not a trivial matter and all users are encouraged to take a responsible approach in the interests of all landowners.



#### Monitoring bait sites

Un-poisoned 'free-feed' baits are available to allow for the testing of non-target risk in sensitive areas, prior to placement of poisoned baits.

Experience in most farming areas however shows that risk to non-target native animals is low so pre-testing with free feeds is usually unnecessary.

If non-target risks need to be evaluated, non-poisoned 'free feed' baits can be placed at the bait site. Soil or sand in a 1.5 metre diameter around the bait should be swept clear of all markings.



The tracks of animals that visit the bait site and/or take the bait overnight will (hopefully) be visible in the sand or swept soil when checked the next morning. If there is evidence of non-target animals at particular bait stations these are not set with poisoned baits when the poisoned bait program begins. (Baits can be buried to minimise uptake or removal by non-target animals, or other control options can be employed).



if there is a special concern to non-target animals.

#### **Bait density**

This requires local advice, but typically one bait will be needed per 10 ha. This application rate allows for a dog density of up to 4 dogs per square kilometre, for some of the baits to not be found and for some dogs to find more than one bait. It is also likely that some baits will be taken by foxes and it is necessary to repeat placement of baits over several weeks to achieve a reliable depletion of both fox and dog numbers.

In arid areas where the population density of dogs is lower, fewer baits may be required. Seek advice from your local Government pest control agency as to a suitable application rate in your area

#### Warning signs

Before poisoned baits are laid and while baits remain present

on the baited area, warning signs must be placed at all entrances to the property and at the extremities of property boundaries fronting a public thoroughfare.

Warning signs must be removed once the poisoning campaign is completed. Poison signs



DOGGONE

are available from the responsible government agency and are supplied by ACTA with DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits.

#### Legislative status of dogs & dingoes

Wild dogs are a declared pest in all states and territories.

Dingoes are a declared pest in WA and Queensland and in areas that are protected by the Dog Fence in South Australia and NSW but are a protected species in the NT.

For information about regulations regarding wild dog control and local programs or options contact your local Government Department responsible for pest animals.



#### Placement of baits

Simply remove baits from the tray or tub and break into separate blocks. Each block is one bait.

Baits should be placed at intervals of at least 200 metres, usually along internal fence lines, stock tracks or vehicle tracks, but note that the requirements regarding placement of baits and distance restrictions vary in different states and territories.

It is important that you read the package label and, if unsure, consult local authorities regarding your local requirements when you purchase your baits.



DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> Baits are safe to handle and easy to use.

Non target risk is reduced if baits are buried - (in NSW and Vic legislation requires that baits <u>must</u> be buried). Programs have been very successful when the baits are placed in mounds, or simply laid on the surface in strategic locations if local conditions and regulations allow.

Wild dogs can find baits almost anywhere but placement of baits at the junctions of tracks, just off animal pads and adjacent to stock tracks leading to watering points has proven successful in many situations.

DOGGONE® baits can survive impact when dropped from 300 metres making them highly suitable to use in aerial campaigns (where permitted).



DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> Baits have proven successful when used in mounds (where permitted).

#### Avoiding multiple uptake

Only one bait is needed to kill a dog so uptake of several baits by the same animal should be minimised.

Dogs often mark territory boundaries, food sources and other sites of interest by urinating and defecating. As the dog can behave normally for several hours after taking a bait they have time to mark sites and continue to search for additional food (or baits) before returning to cover.

Avoid placing baits too close together as several baits may be taken by a single dog and never place more than one bait at each site.

#### Storage and bait replacement

For effective control of all the dogs in a given area, baits may need to be replaced several times as new dogs visit the same site, or foxes may take some of the initial baits.

Sites should be checked regularly and baits replaced as taken.

Ideally, replacement of baits should continue until they are no longer taken, but as a general guide a four to six week program is required (subject to local state requirements and restrictions).

This often shows the true predator problem is greater than anticipated.

DOGGONE® baits can legally be stored in locked chemical sheds for the duration of a baiting program in most states & territories.

Check storage requirements with your relevant government agency contact.



#### Retrieving baits

Some baiting programs require operators to retrieve untaken baits. One of the benefits of DOGGONE® baits is the ease of retrieval compared to rotting meat or offal baits.

DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits are designed to break down in the environment. In moist soil the bait matrix



DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> Baits break down quickly in the soil.

breaks down within weeks. To be sure, the label instructs that baits be retrieved and buried or burned before working dogs are introduced to a baited area.

#### **DOGGONE**® pack sizes

DOGGONE® Wild Dog Bait now comes in a range of pack sizes including an individual Trays of 12

baits, Farmpacks of 72 and Tubs of 300 baits.

DOGGONE® Tub
packs are sturdy
plastic tubs containing
300 baits,
gloves, detailed label
instructions including
information
summarising
restrictions for each
state, and two
reusable plastic gate signs.



The bulk presentation of DOGGONE® makes it suited to large-scale control programs on private or crown land.

The individual Trays and Farmpacks give farmers the tools they need to control wild dogs on a smaller scale.

DOGGONE® Tray packs give authorised officers added flexibility to distribute the correct number of baits required for small baiting programs.



#### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How long does it take for the baits to break down?

DOGGONE® baits are designed to break down over time with the action of moulds and bacteria in the soil. Breakdown varies with temperature and soil moisture from quite quickly in wet tropical conditions, to a considerable time in dry arid areas.

In moist soil conditions in most temperate parts of Australia, 80% of the 1080 in a buried bait is lost over a two week period.

To be sure, baits should either be retrieved from bait sites before working dogs are re-introduced to an area that has been baited, or any dogs muzzled to prevent them picking up an old bait.

#### Is 6mg of 1080 enough to stop a wild dog?

Yes. A 6mg DOGGONE® bait will control the largest cross-bred dog.

#### Should a lure trail be used?

No. Lure trails are not necessary and may lead one dog to take multiple baits.

#### How far apart should I place the baits?

200 - 300 metre spacing is recommended. Closer spacing may enable one dog to take multiple baits.

#### Can baits be regurgitated?

DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits are designed to digest quickly in the stomach of the wild dog, and are hence probably less prone to regurgitation than whole meat baits.

#### Are farm livestock at risk from DOGGONE $^{\circledR}$ baits?

Livestock are not commonly attracted to DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits. The lethal dose required for a sheep is 3 baits and cattle more than 15 baits. Nevertheless it is prudent to ensure stock cannot access the baits once laid.

Working dogs are highly susceptible to the baits and must be restrained and/or muzzled during baiting programs.

#### Can DOGGONE® be used in aerial campaigns?

Yes. Where aerial application of baits is permitted, DOGGONE® baits can be successfully used.

#### How do I order DOGGONE $^{f R}$ baits?

Contact your usual 1080 baiting source: QId - Local Gov. LPO or DNR&M LPO, NSW - RLPBs, ACT - EACT,

SA - APCB, NT - Parks & Wildlife, WA - AgWA, Vic - DPI. DOGGONE® is subject to the same permit & indemnity requirements from these agencies as fresh or dried meat baits containing 1080.

# The benefits of DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits in on-farm wild dog control

To get a picture of how wild dog campaigns run on larger pastoral properties, ACTA asked Craig Young, manager of Vanrook Station to share his extensive experience of dealing with wild dogs.

VANAGOK STATION

Vanrook covers approx. I.5 million acres on the western side of Cape York. With over 36,000 head of cattle, the impact of wild dogs is considerable.

"We often suffer losses ranging from chewed calves to full yearling cattle being taken by the wild dogs."

"Even cattle that have recovered are either rejected for export or downgraded at the meatworks," Craig said.

Traditionally Craig used fresh meat baits, injected with 1080 by the local authorised officer from Normanton.

"We kill cull cattle, and get the ringers to bone them out and prepare the baits for injection."

Craig explained costs of meat baiting should include the time taken by the ringers to bone out and prepare the 250g baits as well as the cost of the cattle at market price.

"A typical baiting program could cost thousands before the baits were laid."

"DOGGONE® eliminates all the messy preparation, and really is a cost-effective solution for dog control as part of an integrated program," he said.

Vanrook Station runs over 36,000 head of cattle and use DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits as part of their wild dog control program.

Craig said the best aspect of DOGGONE® baits was that they are shelf-stable, and can be used for the duration of a baiting program.

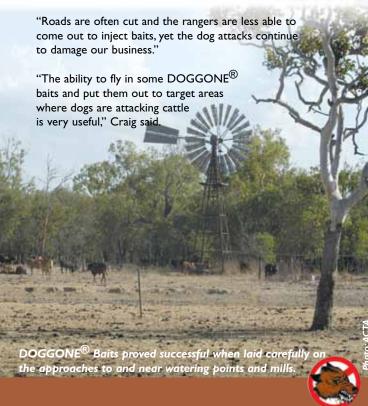
"The baits can be used on mill runs and the like."

"Unlike meat baits that can leak contaminated blood, the poison is located in the centre of each DOGGONE® bait, and the likelihood of contaminating vehicles is greatly reduced."

He said he was also keen to try the manufactured baits out during the wet season, should the need arise, on the basis that the preparation and injecting meat was often not possible at these times.



A badly chewed calf struggles to join the herd at Vanrook - note the damage to the right ear.



## Using DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits in large-scale control programs

Bill Stanford of Queensland's Parks & Wildlife Service agreed to share his experiences of how DOGGONE® simplifies large-scale coordinated baiting programs.



Carnarvon Gorge,
Carnarvon National Park Qld.

One of Bill's roles is to coordinate feral animal control over 1.2 million hectares of National Park and State Forest across south-west Oueensland.

"We are obligated to eradicate wild dogs across all areas within the Barrier Fence. Numbers of other ferals including foxes, cats, rabbits, goats and pigs are also kept to a minimum."

"We have laid DOGGONE® and FOXOFF® Fox bait at hot spots across 600,000ha in coordinated programs for the last few years with great success," Bill said.

He explained the previous method of dog control relied heavily on wet meat baiting. Typically they would purchase kangaroo meat, and inject the baits before laying them out.

"Because of the climate here, we needed to hire a mobile coolroom - which in itself is very expensive - and tow it miles out into the scrub," Bill explained.

"Even if we were to use cow meat, it took days to prepare the baits - you couldn't leave them on the back of the ute for a day or so until they were injected or they'd go off!"

Bill said the shelf stable nature of DOGGONE® baits revolutionised his campaigns.

"We simply order the baits, and a few days later they arrive in sturdy plastic tubs. We put the tubs on the ute and head out laying baits," Bill said.

Another benefit of the manufactured baits is in their use at clearly marked, permanent bait stations throughout National Parks and State Forests.

"With DOGGONE®, birds of prey and goannas appear less likely to pick up and move the baits - unlike wet meat baits that are often moved by these non-target animals."



Birds of prey appear less likely to pick up and move the baits.

"When the leasees are mustering their cattle, they visit the bait sites and check for and pick up the  $\mathsf{DOGGONE}^{\textcircled{B}}$  baits before working the area with dogs."

Bill explained that they get good results using DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> in aerial campaigns. "The efficiency of the baits is a major positive in our inaccessible gorge country where we need to use a chopper."

"With  $\mathsf{DOGGONE}^{\circledR}$  baits, we don't have to keep turning back to pick up more baits- we pick up a couple of tubs and away we go!" he said.

Preliminary monitoring has indicated that baiting in areas with Northern Quolls did not appear to harm these native carnivores. Further research including radio tracking will be ongoing.

"Quolls don't appear to be taking the DOGGONE® baits in the areas being baited as the populations remain strong and healthy despite a considerable ongoing baiting program."

"A reduction in predator pressure from foxes, cats and feral dogs appears to be far more beneficial," Bill said.

Using DOGGONE<sup>®</sup> baits in aerial campaigns was not only cost-effective, but cleaner and easier than handling wet meat baits.



## DOGGO

## Wild Dog Bait

DOGGONE® Wild Dog Bait contains '1080' - a Restricted Schedule 7 chemical.

DOGGONE® provides a reliable and cost-effective method to reduce wild dog numbers in rural areas and crown land.

- Proven highly effective for wild dog control
- Simple to use
- Degrades in the environment
- Available in 12 bait 'Trays' & 72 bait 'Farmpacks' and 300 bait 'Tubs'.

It is registered by the APVMA and available through the following state government agencies and authorities for use with the necessary permits:

Queensland - Dept Natural Resources & Mines or Local Government Authorised 1080 Land Protection Officers New South Wales - Rural Lands Protection Boards South Australia - Animal & Plant Control Boards ACT - Environment ACT

Victoria - Department of Primary Industries WA - S7 licenced rural merchant stores (with AgWA permit) NT -

Restrictions apply in some situations contact your relevant government agency for local advice.

DOGGONE® Wild Dog Baits are stocked locally by:

DOGGONE® Wild Dog Bait is another quality product from Animal Control Technologies (Aust.) manufacturers of: FOXOFF® Fox Bait & Econobait,

RABBAIT® Pindone Oat Bait,
MOUSEOFF® Zinc Phosphide Rodent Bait. MOUSEOFF® Bromadiolone Rodent Bait.

www.animalcontrol.com.au enquiries@animalcontrol.com.au PO Box 379 Somerton Victoria Australia 3062

© Animal Control Technologies (Australia) 2005

