

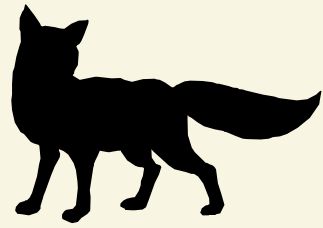


Landcare
Victoria Inc.

FOX FACTS & MANAGEMENT INSIGHTS

FOR LANDCARE GROUPS

What you might not know – and what you can do

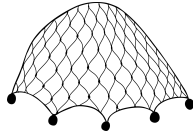


What's Inside

Did you know?



Control methods:
What works best?



More fox facts



Useful links



Did you know?

Nocturnal explorers

- Can roam up to 11-15km in a night

Early maturing and annual breeders:

- Males hit maturity at 10 months - talk about early bloomers!
- Pop out 3-5 cubs per litter - usually in the late summer months
- Getting busy between June and October

A major threat!

- Infamously tied to the extinction of 14 mammals and 1 bird species in Australia
- A major threat to 95 species on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) endangered list

Not exactly homebodies

- They don't always cozy up in the same den

There is no biological control for foxes – YET

- No practical biological controls exist yet. Research is underway on genetic controls like gene drives, but these are still in early stages and unlikely to be used for decades



Control methods: What works best?

Shooting vs. baiting

- **Baiting** (1080/PAPP): Most effective at landscape scale. Reduces numbers and impacts
- **Shooting**: Useful for localised control or problem individuals
- **Key principle**: It's not how many are removed - it's how many are left



Foxes need >65% reduction to control their population growth

Requirements for bait use

- Must follow label instructions, storage, distance and safety guidelines
- Keep 150m away from dwellings and out of reach of children
- In poisoning emergencies: Call 000 or Poisons Info 131 126



[1080 & PAPP bait rules](#)

Humane dispatch of trapped foxes

- Shooting is the recommended and most humane method
- Barbiturates can be used but are less practical in the field



[Euthanasia SOP](#)



More fox facts

Impacts on sheep

- Newborn lambs are particularly vulnerable, especially if lambing doesn't align with neighbouring farms. **Start fox control 6 - 8 weeks before lambing**

Can we make baits more attractive?

- Not usually needed - foxes have an excellent sense of smell. "Free feeding" can help. Use lures only with traps, not baits

Foxes eat adult turtles

- Particularly when wetlands dry up and turtles are exposed. In one Perth incident, 130 turtles were killed by foxes in just two days



[Read the news story](#)

✗ What happens when foxes are removed?

- Other pests like feral cats and rabbits may increase. Coordinated, multi-species management is crucial

🦊 Do foxes have an impact on deer?

- Not significantly. They may prey on fawns/calves or scavenge carcasses, but they don't control deer populations

🦊 Foxes and kangaroo attacks

- Typically, only smaller joeys or weakened adults will be targeted. Foxes are also skilled scavengers of carcasses

Useful links

General Resources

- [National Feral Cat and Fox Program](#)
- [AgVic Fox Control Info](#)
- [PestSmart 1080 Facts](#)
- [Glovebox Guides](#)
- [Urban Fox Control Forum \(YouTube\)](#)
- [WeedScan](#) and [Weeds Australia](#)
- [Community Invasives Action Resources](#)

Control Techniques

- [Integrated Fox Control \(AgVic\)](#)
- [PestSmart Fox Toolkit](#)
- [CPE Demonstration Video](#)
- [Trap Hygiene](#)
- [Field Guide to Poison Baiting](#)

Monitoring

- [FeralScan Fox Tracker](#)
- [Pest Monitoring Overview](#)
- [Monitoring YouTube Playlist](#)

This resource was written by Landcare Victoria Inc. in collaboration with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions – National Feral Cat and Fox Management Coordination Team



This project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Partnerships Against Pests Grants Program, Round 3, Stream 2.