

Fox control advice

Concern: Attacking native wildlife | Property: Under 5ha

Consider the impacts of any fox control action carefully. Fox control may enable roaming cats to take over the territory and have bigger impacts on wildlife.

Are native species numbers declining?

Use remote sensing cameras to see who is visiting when you're not there! Work with your neighbours using a combination of methods for the best results.

1. Remove food sources

Avoid attracting foxes! Make sure all domestic rubbish is securely stored inside bins and avoid leaving pet food or scraps outdoors.

- ✓ Clean up fallen fruit under trees. Control weeds such as [blackberry](#) and [briar rose](#).
- ✓ Control rabbits, mice, and non-native rats.
- ✓ Ensure any dead animal carcasses are buried deeply.
- ✓ House poultry in sturdy, roofed enclosures, especially at night or when unattended.

2. Modify their habitat

Focus on improving habitat for [native species](#) to help protect them from foxes.

- ✓ Remove day-time hiding places for foxes such as piles of timber, bricks, or rubbish.
- ✓ Trim low-hanging plants around property buildings and sheds to 50 cm aboveground.
- Fill in fox holes or dens with rocks or wire to
- ✓ block access.
- Attend to [weeds](#) on your property.



3. Den fumigation

Fumigation with carbon monoxide gas cartridges is a useful measure to eliminate active dens in areas where shooting and baiting is restricted.

- ✓ Check dens before fumigation to ensure they're not being used by native wildlife.
 - ✓ Spring to early summer is ideal.
 - ✓ Must be done away from buildings and by qualified persons. Check local regulations.
 - ✓ Stop new foxes moving into the old den by ripping or destroying after fumigation.
- Standard procedure: [NATSOP-FOX004 – Fumigation using CO](#)

4. Fencing and barriers

Effective fencing and barriers are essential for keeping foxes out of protected areas.

Fox-proof options, such as weld-mesh wire, help prevent them from accessing food or shelter. As a general rule, if a cat can get into an enclosure, so can a fox.

- ✓ Block any gaps larger than 10 cm² near buildings and sheds.
- ✓ Fences should be at least 2 m high, dug 30 cm into the ground and angle outward at the base. A floppy overhang deters climbing.
- ✓ Adding electric wires (12-volt energizer) can be effective - ensure wires are clearly marked for safety.

[Fencing for Fox Control](#) – PestSmart

5. Trapping

Trapping is not suitable for large-scale fox control as foxes are generally wary creatures, especially as they mature. However, a cage-trap may be useful for catching an individual fox in some circumstances.

- ✓ If caught, foxes must be humanely destroyed. Note that the use of steel-jawed traps and snares is prohibited.
- ✓ Rubber-jawed leg-hold traps and treadle snares may be conditionally acceptable subject to animal welfare codes. Check local regulations.
- ✓ Large cage traps can be purchased through agricultural product retailers.
- ✓ Traps must be checked regularly.

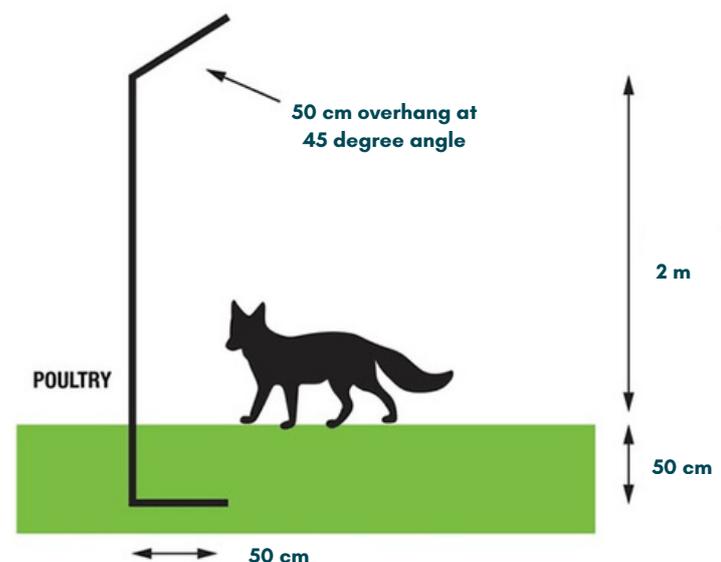
Standard procedure: [NATSOP-FOX006 – Cage Traps](#)

6. Shooting

Shooting can be a humane method of eliminating localised fox problems when done by a trained and responsible shooters.

- ✓ Always check local firearms regulations.
- ✓ For assistance, contact [SSAA Farmer Assist Program](#).

Standard procedure: [NATSOP-FOX003 – Ground Shooting](#)



This diagram shows the dimensions of an effective fox-proof fence.

Further information

Further information is available through Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu landscape.sa.gov.au/hf