

Fox control advice

Concern: Attacking poultry | Property: Under 5ha

Protecting poultry from foxes is a community effort. Work with your neighbours using a combination of methods for the best results.

1. 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](#)

2. Remove food sources

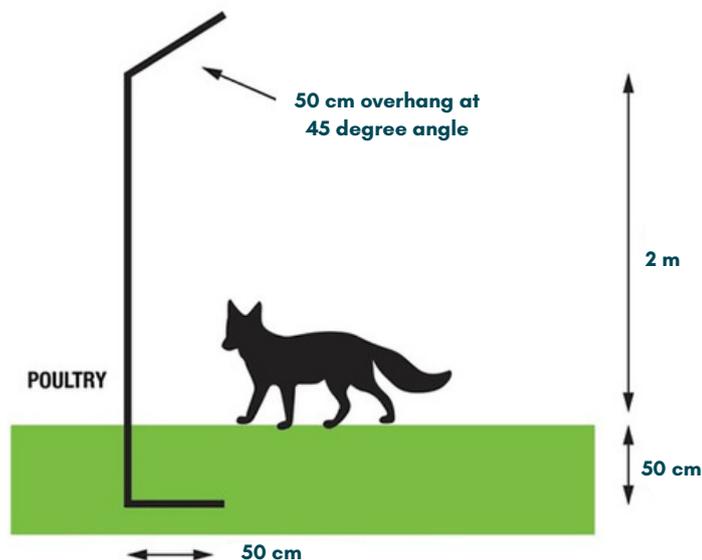
Avoid attracting foxes! Make sure all domestic rubbish is securely stored inside bins and avoid leaving pet food or scraps outdoors.

- ✓ Control rabbits, mice, and non-native rats.
- ✓ Clean up fallen fruit under trees.
- ✓ Control weeds such as blackberry and briar rose.

3. Modify their habitat

Don't give foxes an easy home!

- ✓ Stop the breeding cycle - if they have nowhere to live, they have nowhere to breed.
- Clean up debris and hiding places from your property.



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

- ✓ Destroy fox dens. Fill in fox holes or dens with rocks or wire to block access.
- ✓ Trim low-hanging plants around property buildings and sheds to 50 cm aboveground.
- ✓ Attend to weeds on your property. Fox lights may help at times. You'll need to move them around to prevent foxes getting used to them.

4. Guardian animals

Protect your flock. Good guardian animals require training. Before you buy any animal, ensure you have a suitable property as well as the time and ability to provide adequate care.

- ✓ Small, level paddocks are easier to defend.
- ✓ Trusted dog breeds include the Great Pyrenees from France, Maremmas from Italy, and Akbash and Anatolian Shepherds from Turkey.

5. 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](#)

6. 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](#)

7. Shooting

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

- ✓ Always check local firearms regulations. For assistance, contact [SSAA Farmer Assist Program](#).
Standard procedure: [NATSOP-FOX003 – Ground Shooting](#)



Further information

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