



Australian Government

AHCPMG403 Apply predator trapping techniques

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 6.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to effectively use leg hold traps to capture predator species, to release the animal unharmed as part of research programs or to humanely euthanise in accordance with pest management programs. It primarily deals with the use of leg hold or foothold traps to capture predator pest species, including dogs, foxes and cats. Animals may be native animals, domestic animals, animals determined to be pests or feral animals. Trapping techniques call for the use of a variety of equipment and may include the use of lures or attractants baits.

Trapping must be carried out in accordance with an approved pest management plan or research project plan.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources.

Some forms of traps are strictly regulated in some states and territories in Australia. Specific determination should be sought through the relevant state or territory authority.

Where feral animals are trapped, they may need to be euthanised with a firearm. Firearms licensing conditions apply to this unit, in particular the use of Cat A, B or C firearms. Specific approval should be sought through the relevant state or territory firearms licensing agency.

Appropriate firearms licences and training are also required for those involved in training and assessment of this unit.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Pest Management (PMG)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Assess site and predator trapping requirements	1.1 Identify purpose of animal capture and set objectives 1.2 Confirm the location and extent of the pest problem 1.3 Confirm target animal movement patterns and behaviour to determine trapping location and placement of equipment 1.4 Identify non-target animals present in the area 1.5 Estimate time required to complete trapping
2. Prepare equipment required for trapping	2.1 Identify and check vehicles, materials and equipment required for trapping 2.2 Clean and maintain trapping equipment and prepare traps for trapping 2.3 Identify hazards, assess risks and implement controls according to workplace health and safety and environmental procedures 2.4 Assess site access requirements and obtain authority and permits to enter property 2.5 Identify potential hazards to non-target animals from trapping, and implement control strategies to mitigate risk 2.6 Tune, modify and prepare traps to minimise non-target capture
3. Place and set traps	3.1 Undertake site surveillance to identify target and non-target animals 3.2 Identify and interpret signs of target animal 3.3 Select, check and use personal protective equipment 3.4 Select and prepare trap site to maximise opportunity of trapping target animals 3.5 Position, set, calibrate and check trapping equipment 3.6 Apply lures, decoys or baits and toxins according to trapping objectives 3.7 Camouflage traps according to trap design
4. Check and remove traps	4.1 Inspect traps according to frequency specified in trapping objectives and legislative requirements 4.2 Identify trapped animals, then release, destroy or prepare for transport according to trapping objective

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	4.3 Handle and transport captured animals humanely according to animal welfare codes of practice 4.4 Observe workplace health and safety procedures and public safety requirements during trapping activities 4.5 Render traps safe and remove trap according to manufacturer specifications 4.6 Restore trap site to its prior condition
5. Maintain accurate records	5.1 Record details of trapping activities according to workplace procedures 5.2 Report results of trapping activities and incidents according to workplace procedures 5.3 Report trapping results and outcomes according to approved management plan 5.4 Record trap locations and captures according to workplace record-keeping procedures
6. Clean and store equipment and material	6.1 Remove, retain or dispose of carcasses according to workplace health and safety and biosecurity procedures 6.2 Clean, maintain and store equipment and unused materials

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Writing	Maintain accurate records and prepare reports using structure and layout specified in workplace procedures, incorporating vocabulary, grammatical structure and conventions appropriate to the reader

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCPMG403 Apply predator trapping techniques	AHCPMG414 Apply predator trapping techniques	Minor changes to Application Element 1 split into two to rationalise unit structure Changes to Performance Criteria to remove duplication Added Foundation Skills Updated Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions	Equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCPMG403 Apply predator trapping techniques

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has deployed leg hold traps on at least two occasions for the capture of predatory pest animals.

There must also be evidence that the individual has:

- trapped, handled and released or euthanised animals humanely according to trapping objectives and animal welfare regulations and guidelines
- identified target and non-target animals in the field
- checked vehicles, equipment and materials for serviceability, and cleaned equipment before starting and on completion of trapping activity
- selected and prepared the trapping site and restored it on completion of trapping activity
- positioned, set, calibrated and checked trapping equipment according to trapping objectives and procedures
- prepared and applied lures or attractants to traps
- identified signs of target animals using scent stations, and identifiable tracks, scats and/ or other traces
- summarised and presented trapping results according to workplace reporting procedures
- maintained accurate records according to workplace procedures including:
 - types of trap sets and lures
 - target species captured
 - non-target species captured
- recorded location of traps and lures using at least one of the following methods:
 - Global Positioning System (GPS) device
 - software application
 - maps or charts.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- basic requirements for ensuring the welfare of animals described in the relevant codes of practice and standard operating procedures, including animal ethics
- purpose of the animal capture
- selecting trapping location and equipment, including:
 - target animal's range
 - movement patterns and behaviour
- factors affecting choices around equipment and resources and timing of trapping activities, including:
 - the reproductive cycle of the target animal
 - food preferences, both general and local, of target animals
 - biology of non-target animals that may be impacted by trapping program in the area
 - permissions and permits that may be required
 - suitable traps for the target animal
 - precautions that need to be taken to minimise trapping non-target animals
- capture and humane killing methods for target animals
- principles relating to property, stock and duty of care
- how to camouflage traps
- how to safely set off traps to render them inactive
- workplace health and safety procedures that relate to trapping animals
- recording and reporting requirements
- decoys and lures types, purpose and safe use
- toxins used in trapping, including:
 - types
 - preparation
 - use
 - state or territory legislation on the use and storage of toxins
- applicable legislation on the capture and handling of pest animals
- suitable personal protective equipment
- transportation methods for captured animals.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in the field where predatory pest animals are to be found, or in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:

- leg hold and foothold traps and lures that comply with Commonwealth and state/territory legislation
- personal protective equipment
- specifications:
 - workplace policies and procedures for using trapping techniques
 - manufacturer operating instructions for traps
 - safety data sheets for chemical lures and baits
 - workplace instructions and trapping objectives
 - legislation and codes of practice for humane traps, trapping and handling of animals
- timeframes:
 - checking traps according to timeframes recommended in legislation and animal welfare regulations.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

In addition, the following specific assessor requirements apply to this unit:

- assessors must have appropriate firearms licence where required by trapping techniques.

Links

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