



Australian Government

AHCPMG414 Apply predator trapping techniques

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

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 euthanase in accordance with pest management programs.

This unit primarily deals with the use of leg 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.

This 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 euthanased with a firearm. Firearms licensing conditions apply to this unit, in particular the use of either 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 against this unit.

In addition to legal responsibilities, all units of competency dealing with animals in the AHC Training Package have the requirements for animals to be handled humanely to minimise stress and discomfort.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil.

Unit Sector

Pest Management (PMG)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Prepare for trapping	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 1.6 Identify and check vehicles, materials and equipment required for trapping 1.7 Clean and maintain trapping equipment and prepare traps for trapping 1.8 Identify hazards associated with trapping and select appropriate personal protective equipment 1.9 Identify environmental risks associated with trapping animals 1.10 Determine correct protocols or requirements for entering and working on private and public land 1.11 Obtain relevant permissions and permits to enter property 1.12 Identify necessary precautions for minimising trapping of non-target animals 1.13 Tune, modify and prepare traps in working order to minimise non-target capture
2. Place and set traps	2.1 Undertake site surveillance prior to setting traps 2.2 Identify and interpret signs of target animal 2.3 Select and prepare trap site to maximise opportunity for trapping target animals 2.4 Position, set and calibrate trapping equipment and check it for strength and security 2.5 Apply lures, decoys or baits and toxins as required 2.6 Camouflage traps as required 2.7 Apply precautions to prevent trapping of non-target animals
3. Check and remove traps	3.1 Inspect traps at the required frequency 3.2 Identify trapped animals then release, destroy or prepare for transport as required 3.3 Handle captured animals humanely according to animal welfare Codes of Practice 3.4 Transport animals from site, when required, in a safe and

Element	Performance criteria
	appropriate manner 3.5 Observe work health and safety procedures and public safety requirements prior to and during trapping activities 3.6 Release trap mechanism safely and remove trap 3.7 Restore trap-site to its prior condition
4. Record data	4.1 Record details of trap sets and lures as well as target and non-target capture 4.2 Report results of trapping activities, including any incidents with animals 4.3 Report trapping results in relation to approved management plan 4.4 Record trap locations and capture using Global Positioning System (GPS) device, approved software or maps, where required
5. Clean and store equipment and material	5.1 Remove, retain or dispose of carcasses as required 5.2 Clean and store and maintain equipment and materials

Foundation Skills

Foundation Skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

New unit - No equivalent.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCPMG414 Apply predator trapping techniques

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must be assessed on their ability to integrate and apply the performance requirements of this unit in a workplace setting. Performance must be demonstrated consistently over time and in a suitable range of contexts.

The candidate must provide evidence that they can:

- humanely trap animals and release or destroy the animals as required
- identify target and non-target animals in the field
- check vehicles, equipment and materials for serviceability and clean equipment before starting and on completing the job
- select and prepare the trapping site and restore it on completion of the job
- position, set, calibrate and regularly check trapping equipment
- manufacture and apply lures or attractants, if required
- handle and euthanase captured animals in accordance with animal welfare guidelines
- identify signs of target animals, using scent stations and other animal tracks and traces
- summarise and present trapping data to supervisor
- use appropriate data sheets or other recording instruments to record details of trap sets and lures as well as target and non-target capture
- apply work health and safety practices in the context of own work
- apply appropriate animal welfare practices in trapping and handling trapped animals

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- basic requirements for ensuring the welfare of animals described in the relevant Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures
- the purpose of the animal capture
- the target animal's range, movement patterns and behaviour and how to apply knowledge of these to selecting trapping location and equipment
- 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
- work health and safety procedures that relate to trapping animals
- recording and reporting requirements
- how to use decoys and lures
- how to prepare toxins
- applicable 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 must be conducted in a real work environment trapping live animals.

The assessment team must include assessors with firearms licences.

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs.

Links

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