

September 2020

1080 baiting: a must for pest control but a risk to domestic pets

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development advises that essential baiting programs using 1080 are carried out all year round across the state. While these programs are aimed at controlling wild dogs, foxes, feral cats, feral pigs and rabbits, they do pose a risk to domestic dogs.

Keeping your family's best friend safe is your responsibility. If you have to take your dog with you when you travel in WA's regional areas, keep it on a leash or use a muzzle. The safest option is to not take your dog at all, but leave it in the safe hands of a carer or at a boarding kennel.

1080 baiting is **essential** for pastoralists and farmers, and to conserve our wildlife. Without baiting, stock are targeted by wild dogs and can be killed, causing emotional and financial distress to producers. Introduced predators also eat many native fauna. Over the past 100 years, more mammals have become extinct in Australia than anywhere else in the world.

About 1080

1080 is a naturally occurring poison found in 40 plant species. Western Australia has 39 of the 40 plant species growing naturally in the south-west. Native species have developed a tolerance to 1080 making it a more selective poison pest control option. However, **your domestic pet is not safe without your help.**

Baiting of pastoral leases, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) reserves, unallocated Crown land and freehold farms can be carried out at any time. The poison baits remain toxic for many months. You **must** exercise caution when working within or visiting these areas. Warning signs are placed at entrance points on all land where baiting is being carried out and at other relevant places where applicable on pastoral, DBCA, and unallocated Crown land.

However, **do not rely upon the presence of warning signs.** Signage may not be in the immediate vicinity and can be weather damaged, removed or destroyed. Please consult with individual pastoralists, DBCA and/or farmers prior to entering their lands. Domestic pets **must** be kept close and under control at all times. If your pet wanders when you are travelling throughout regional WA, you may need to consider a muzzle for your pet.

For further information drop into the local DPIRD office or contact DPIRD on **9368 3333**.

Important disclaimer

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