

# GLOVEBOX GUIDE FOR MANAGING WILD DOGS



# GLOVEBOX GUIDE FOR MANAGING FERAL PIGS



# GLOVEBOX GUIDE FOR MANAGING RABBITS

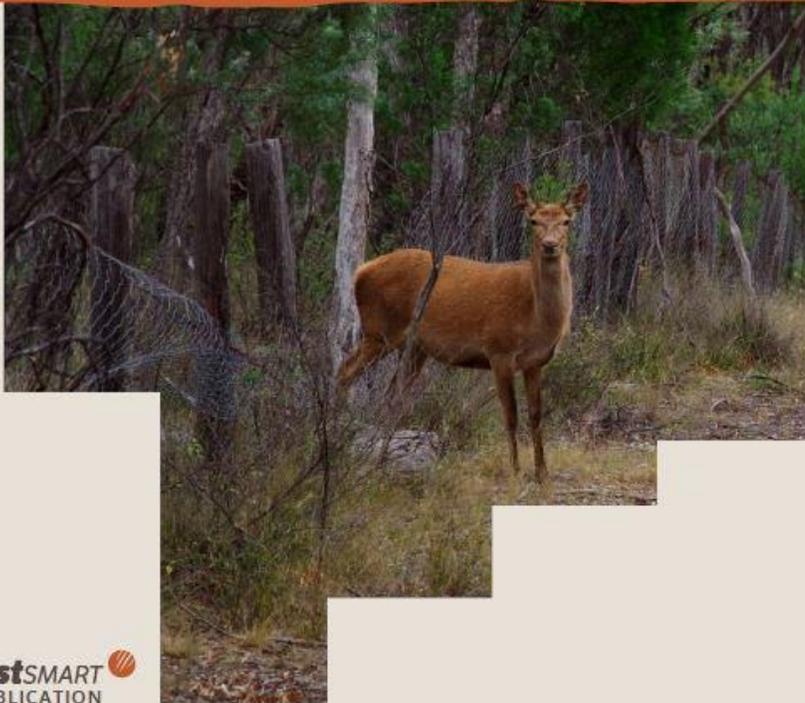




CENTRE FOR  
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

# GLOVEBOX GUIDE TO MANAGING FERAL DEER

DAVID FORSYTH, SEBASTIEN COMTE,  
ANDREW BENGSEN, JORDAN HAMPTON, TONY POPL



pestSMART  
PUBLICATION

Available on the PestSmart website

<https://pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/09/CISS-Glovebox-Guide-Feral-Deer-final.pdf>



Department of  
Primary Industries



Queensland  
Government

# A five-year collaborative project....

Sebastien Comte, Andrew Bengsen, Jordan Hampton, Tony Pople, Tarnya Cox, Mal Leeson, Bec Gray, Ollie Orgill, Troy Crittle, Mark Lamb, Kym Haebich, Darryl MacKenzie, Mark Tarrant, Michelle Dawson, Lee Parker, Elaine Thomas, Dan Brown, Sally Bryant, Rowena Hamer, Naomi Davis, Ami Bennett + many others!



# Objectives and structure

This guide aims to:

1. increase understanding of where and how deer live
2. outline options for control, and their benefits and constraints
3. summarise useful monitoring and management methods
4. help you develop a cost-effective deer management plan.















# UNDERSTAND



Source: B Boyle.

## Key features of each species<sup>1</sup>

### Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)<sup>2</sup>



up to 95 cm  
50-100 kg



up to 80 cm  
35-55 kg

### Appearance

Gregarious, medium-sized deer with wide variation in coat colour – ranging from white through to black.

**Coat:** Variable – black, red-brown with spots, lighter brown, and pure white. A white patch on rump highlights a dark stripe on the tail.

**Antlers:** Many tines, often like an open hand ('palmate').

### Habitat, distribution and behaviour

Pastoral land, and forest and woodland with grassy understoreys. Fallow deer feed on grassy clearings and on improved pastures and crops.

**Distribution:** Present in all states and territories except NT.

**Behaviour:** They form large groups; adult males often separate from females outside the March–April rut. Males 'croak' during the rut.



# PLAN



Chital deer. Source: M. Elliott.

Goals should be **SMART**:

**S**pecific – e.g. what change in deer impacts or abundance do you want?

**M**easurable – how will achievement be demonstrated?

**A**chievable – is your objective within your means?

**R**elevant – e.g. will a change in deer impacts or abundance contribute to achieving your objective?

**T**ime-bound – when will you know if your objective has been achieved?

# MANAGE

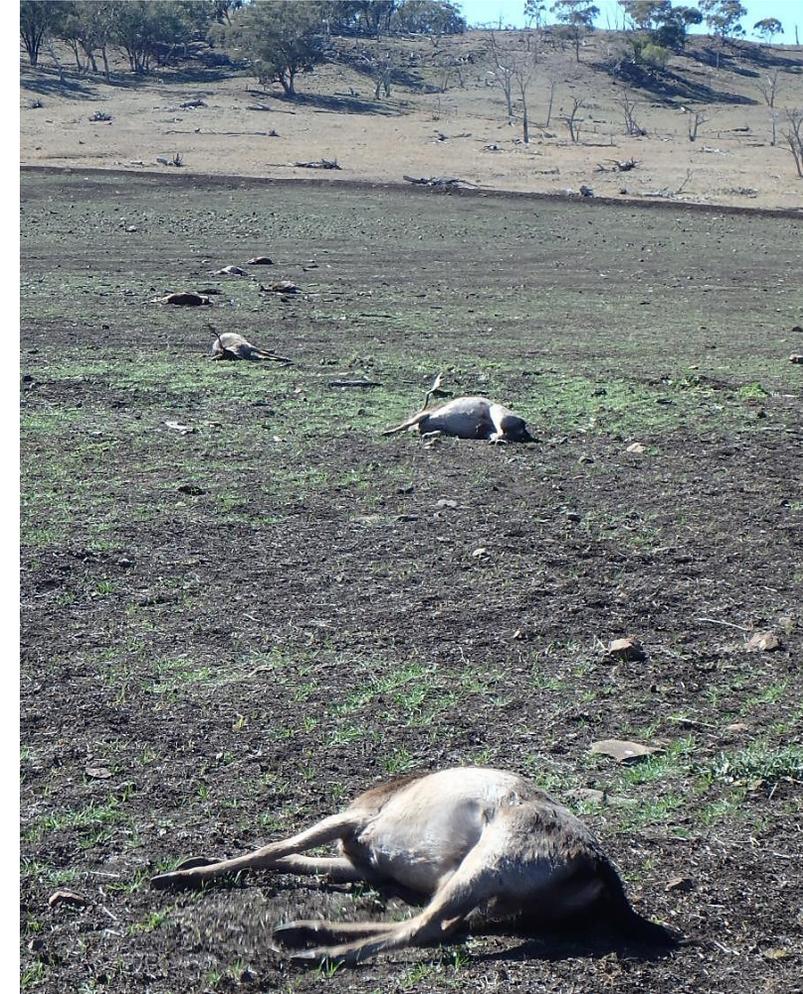


Source: T Dalman and R Gillmore, project leads for the Native Vegetation Improvement Project, Parks Victoria.



# Aerial shooting

- helicopter, pilot, shooter & often also a navigator
- search and kill over large areas (can be  $>500 \text{ km}^2$ )
- kill many deer quickly (50 deer an hour)
- knock-down depends on effort and deer density
- best welfare outcomes when a fly-back procedure



# Ground shooting

## Best suited to:

- smaller areas with good networks of roads and tracks for access
- some peri-urban areas
- most effective when done at night with a spotlight or thermal equipment



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## Benefits/constraints:

- recreational shooters and commercial harvesters may provide the service for free
- using carcasses can increase community support
- recreational and commercial shooters unlikely to reduce deer populations to low densities over large areas
- managing...



# Exclusion fencing



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## USING EXCLUSION FENCING TO MANAGE FERAL DEER IMPACTS IN AUSTRALIA

DAVID M. FORSYTH



**To exclude deer, fences should be a minimum of 1.9 m in height, with mesh netting of 17/190/15 and posts spaced at a maximum of 10 m.**



# Trapping



A review of the methods used to trap wild deer in New South Wales and Queensland

- lethal control method for peri-urban areas
- deer need to be shot and removed
- not all deer will enter a trap
  - deer are naturally wary
  - abundant food outside trap
  - trap too small or gate poorly designed
  - trap poorly situated



# IMPROVE



*Motion-sensitive cameras are an excellent way to detect and monitor deer and other wildlife. Source: A Bengsen.*

## Detecting and monitoring deer



## Monitoring impacts

# RESOURCES

The PestSmart website ([pestsmart.org.au](http://pestsmart.org.au)) has many resources to help you manage deer, and is always updated as new information and innovations become available.

## Policies and Acts

Feral deer management is legislated and administered by states and territories. These laws and policies cover:

- land tenure, for example the status of deer may differ on public versus private land
- obligations of landowners to control deer
- specific control tools, for example which firearms and ammunition are permitted to be used to control deer
- animal welfare requirements for control tools
- threatened species and the processes threatening them.

Laws and policies can change, so you need to check with your relevant state or territory agency for current legislation and policies. The agency should be able to assist you with information and advice specific to your situation.

## History of deer in Australia

Bentley A (1998) *An Introduction to the Deer of Australia with Special Reference to Victoria, 3rd edition*, Australian Deer Research Foundation.

Long JL (2003) *Introduced Mammals of the World: Their History, Distribution and Influence*, CSIRO Publishing.

Moriarty A (2004) 'The liberation, distribution, abundance and management of wild deer in Australia', *Wildlife Research*, 31:291–299.



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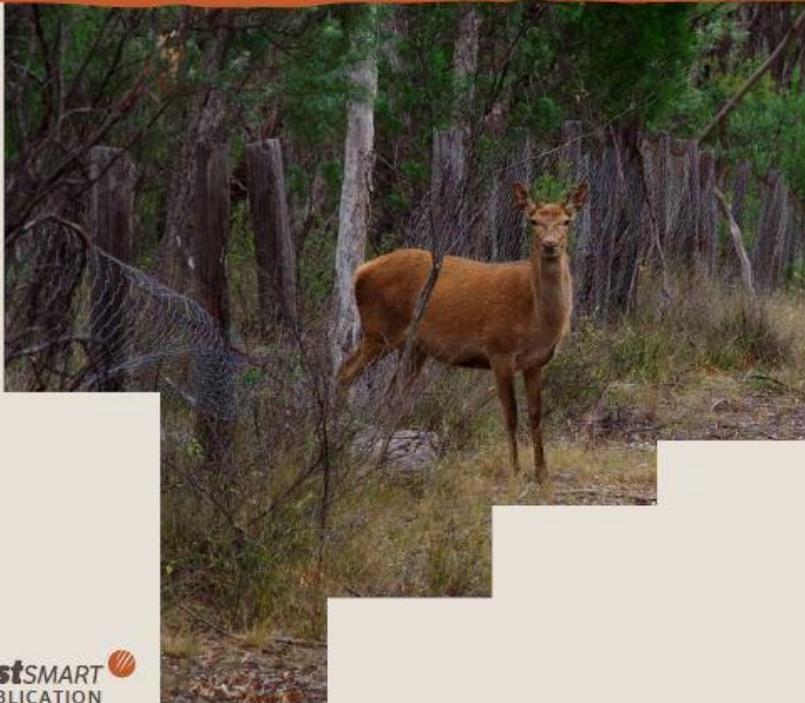




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