

Pest Animals

How Do They Impact You?

Wild Dogs

Agriculture:

- Kill and injure livestock including sheep, goats and cattle
- Reduced production through stress to livestock
- Economic loss through downgraded offal due to disease
- Reduced enterprise opportunities e.g. unable to run sheep
- Social impact - increased stress



Environment:

- Predate native animals and birds
- Compete with native predators for food and other resources

Biosecurity:

Wild dog populations are a major concern to Australia's agricultural industries for the spread of disease such as rabies.

Diseases and Parasites:

Wild dogs can carry numerous infectious diseases and parasites. Many of these impact livestock, wildlife, our pets and people, such as:

- **Neospora caninum** - a parasite spread by dogs and foxes. It causes abortion in cattle as well as reduced weight gain
- **Hydatids** - a serious parasitic disease caused by tapeworms. Large cysts form in the organs of sheep and cattle, reduces the quality of offal. Can also infect people
- **Canine Distemper** - a virus that is highly contagious and often fatal to domestic dogs



Feral Pigs

Agriculture:

- Kill and injure young lambs and kids
- Destroy crops and established pastures
- Reduce stocking rates
- Damage fences
- Damage and pollute waterholes
- Spread a broad range of weeds



Environment:

- Destroy food and nesting sites for native wildlife
- Predate on small animals and reptiles
- Water fouling, damage to wetlands
- Predate on the eggs of ground-nesting birds

Biosecurity:

Feral pig populations are a major concern to Australia's agricultural industries for the spread of disease such as foot & mouth.



Diseases and Parasites:

Feral pigs can carry many infectious diseases and external parasites. Many of the diseases can be spread to livestock and people, such as:

- **Leptospirosis** - causes high temperatures, kidney failure and jaundice. It can be fatal to humans and causes abortion in cattle
- **Q fever** - results in high temperatures and heart problems which can be fatal
- **Melioidosis** - a serious bacterial disease which causes abscesses

Foxes

Agriculture:

- Kill and injure young lambs, kids, calves and poultry
- Spread agricultural and environmental weeds
- Eat dung beetles

Environment:

- Predate native animals, birds and reptiles
- Contribute to wildlife losses by eating the eggs of birds and reptiles
- Compete with native predators for food and other resources



Biosecurity:

Fox populations are a major concern to Australia's agricultural industries for the spread of disease such as rabies.

Diseases and Parasites:

Foxes can carry many infectious diseases and external parasites. Many of these impact wildlife, livestock and people, such as:

- **Parvo virus** - a highly contagious virus impacting dogs
- **Sarcoptic Mange** - a highly irritating and debilitating skin disease of cats, dogs and native wildlife such as wombats
- **Hydatids** - a parasitic disease resulting in the formation of cysts in livestock and people
- **Neospora caninum** - a parasite that causes abortion in cattle
- **and others** - e.g. mites, ticks, fleas, Leptospirosis, Encephalitis

