



## Feral Animal Control

The City of Rockingham undertakes a biannual feral animal control program in bushland and coastal nature reserves. The program targets introduced pest species that present a risk to Australian native animals and plants. Through predation and competition for food, the presence of feral animals can result in significant impacts on the ecosystem. Feral animals can also cause production and financial losses for the agricultural industry.

### Which feral animal species are targeted?

Foxes, cats and rabbits are targeted for control in the majority of the City of Rockingham's nature reserves. Regular programs are undertaken with the aim of reducing the population and the overall impact of these animals.

### How are the program's methodologies selected?

Feral animal control is undertaken in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2002 and the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007. The methodologies used by the City of Rockingham are target-specific, humane and approved by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Special considerations are made for the safety of the general public and domestic pets while the program is carried out. Only feral animals, not domestic pets, are targeted by this program.

### Who undertakes the control?

The City of Rockingham uses contractors licenced by WA Department of Health who are qualified and experienced in all aspects of the control program.

### Pet ownership

Responsible pet owners are key to the success of the program. Domestic animals can still disturb or prey on vulnerable native animals. You can assist by:

- sterilising and micro-chipping pets
- keeping dogs on a leash in public unless in an off-leash area
- preventing cats from roaming. Bring them in at night and consider installing a cat run on your property
- speak with your vet about vaccinating your rabbit and insect-proofing hutches.

### Further Information

- Feral animals in Australia, DoEE, <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive-species/feral-animals-australia>
- Pest animals, DPIRD, <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pests-weeds-diseases/pests/pest-animals>

