

Trapping tips

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It's a shame that the 1080 program is being left unheeded by many graziers because of the decline in the sheep and wool industry. But you can still get back on top with the baiting, especially if have one round in late November/early December to get rid of all those big hungry pups.

Decoy traps

Decoy traps are the most used system for catching wild dogs, and here are some tips on where you can set your trap.

- **Dog's urine and faeces are the normal decoy but one decoy comes in a handy pressure pack.**

(Over the years I've used a variety of mixes, but the most successful was VO5 hairspray which worked especially well for bitches.)

- **The best places to set decoy traps are where wild dogs have been scratching.**

(You can be sure that they will turn up there again, even if it is days or weeks later.)

- **Otherwise set them along the edge of the road they are following.**
- **Don't put the trap too close to the actual decoy spot**

(The dog may stand on the jaw of the trap, springing it without being caught, and then you have another one of the 5% to worry about. Unusual things can happen, that's why a few end up being caught by the hind foot.)



Hiding the trap with a layer of sifted soil

- **Make sure that the site is away from normal stock traffic**

(This will reduce the chances of a working dog being caught as they are not so likely to be attracted to the commonly used decoy of bitch's urine and faeces.)

Those wary dogs

Ninety-five percent of wild dogs are easy to catch; it's the 5% that have had a fright by springing a trap that cause the trapping problems.

The following tips that may help you catch the wary dogs.

- **Boil your traps in clean water.**
- **Have nothing showing above the ground, drive a peg down under the trap, or bury a heavy weight to anchor it.**
- **Don't set traps after mid-morning so that your scent has reduced by night time.**
- **Place a small log or stick across a pad that is used only by wild dogs. When the dog becomes used to stepping over the obstacle, bury the trap nearby.**
- **Don't leave any scent as that could alert the dog to the trap**



A 22 kg dog caught in a DPI research project. This dog then moved over 300 km to recolonise a recently baited property.

But there are always a few dogs that are too smart for any of our tricks.