

WARNING: 1080 POISON MAY BE IN YOUR AREA

What your council isn't telling you

1080 is cruel. There is no antidote.

1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) is an odourless, tasteless, water-soluble poison. It is laid in Australian bushland, farmland and the outer edges of our suburbs to kill foxes and dingoes. It cannot distinguish between a fox and any other animal. It kills any creature who eats a lethal dose, including family dogs, cats, birds, reptiles and native wildlife.

1080 blocks the body's ability to produce energy at the cellular level. The animal slowly runs out of the fuel it needs to stay alive. It is not a quick death.

What it does to the animal who eats it:

- Vomiting, extreme anxiety and distress
- Disorientation, uncontrolled running, drooling
- Convulsions, loud distress calls, seizures
- Paralysis, and finally death

It can take up to **48 hours** for death to come. There is no antidote. Once the poison is absorbed, there is almost nothing a vet can do. Most animals who eat 1080 die in the bush, alone, and nobody sees it.

"Like being electrocuted for two days straight."

A veterinarian's description of what 1080 does to the animal who eats it.

It kills family pets, too

1080 is not species-specific. Dogs are especially sensitive to it. Cats are sensitive to it. Every year in Australia, beloved family pets die after finding a bait, or after eating the body of an animal that was killed by one. Baits are pieces of meat left in the bush. Any animal with a nose can find them.

If you live in or near a baited area:

- Keep dogs on lead at all times in bushland, national parks and reserves
- Keep cats indoors or contained
- Watch for yellow or red warning signs that mention "1080"
- Do not let dogs drink from puddles or creeks, as 1080 is water-soluble
- If your pet shows symptoms (vomiting, trembling, seizures) get them to a vet immediately and call the **Animal Poisons Helpline: 1300 869 738** (free, 24/7)

Cubs are left to starve

A mother fox who eats 1080 does not die quickly, and she does not die near her den. She runs, hides, and her body finally fails somewhere private. Her cubs wait for her, and when she does not come back, they slowly starve.

1080 baiting is often carried out in spring, which is exactly when fox cubs are tiny and most dependent on their mothers. 1080 is not just a poison. It is also a sentence of slow starvation for every cub left crying in a den for a mother who will never come back.

1080 does not work

Lethal fox control has been running in Australia for decades and the fox population is still present across most of the continent. You cannot poison a species out of existence while suitable habitat and food remain. What lethal baiting does is cause suffering on an enormous scale without solving the problem it claims to solve.

Turn over for what you can do →

WHAT YOU CAN DO

IF YOUR PET HAS BEEN POISONED

Treat it as a life-threatening emergency. Get them to a vet immediately.

On the way, call:

Animal Poisons Helpline
1300 869 738

Free. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Staffed by specialist toxicologists who will tell you what to do in the minutes that matter most.

Contact your council

If baiting is being carried out or authorised by your local council, ring them and put a complaint in writing. Ask them to stop the baiting program and collect any remaining baits. Be aware that councils sometimes say the baiting is not their decision. If that happens, ask them who authorised it so you can write to that body as well.

Find your NSW council: olg.nsw.gov.au/councils/find-my-council/

(In other states, search "find my council" + your state name)

Try to reach individual councillors as well as the general address. They are elected. They listen to voters.

Contact your state MP

In many cases, 1080 baiting is carried out by Local Land Services or National Parks rather than council. Your state MP can raise this directly with the responsible agency and push for change.

Find your NSW MP: parliament.nsw.gov.au/members

(In other states, search "find my state MP" + your state name)

Talk to your neighbours

Most people in a baiting area have no idea it is happening. Pass this fact sheet on. Letterbox-drop your street, especially any home with a dog or a cat. If even a few neighbours bring in dogs and lock up cats for a few weeks, lives will be saved.

Ask for kinder alternatives

Where the concern is protecting threatened native wildlife, predator-proof fencing and habitat restoration actually work. Fox-proof fencing and well-managed lambing sheds are available for farming properties. If you care for chickens, a properly built, locked coop protects your flock far better than poisoning ever will.

Demand funding for fertility control

Immunocontraceptive vaccines already work in other species, including horses and kangaroos. Research into fox-specific fertility control has been running since the 1990s but has never received the funding it needs. Governments spend millions every year on lethal baiting that does not solve the problem. Ask your council and MP to redirect baiting budgets into non-lethal research. The science is there. What is missing is the political will to fund it.

Foxes are individuals

Foxes are routinely called "pests". They are not. They are intelligent, playful, family-oriented animals. They form strong bonds, raise their cubs together, and recognise each other as individuals. They did not choose to be in this country. They were brought here in the 1850s for sport hunting. That does not make it acceptable to torture them.

For the full story, our letter template, and more ways to help:

henrescue.org/live-kind/ban-1080-fox-bait

NSW Hen Rescue: standing up for chickens, foxes, and every animal who deserves kindness.