

# PET OWNERS BEWARE



## Western Shield wildlife recovery program

- The *Western Shield* program is working to reduce fox and feral cat numbers in conservation areas of Western Australia in order to protect our unique native wildlife. The primary way of achieving this is through the laying of dried meat sausage baits containing the poison 1080.
- These baits are poisonous to humans and will kill domestic cats and dogs. Do not take your pets into areas baited with 1080.
- Baiting occurs on a regular and ongoing basis and baited areas must be considered **dangerous for pet cats and dogs** at all times.
- The baits are extremely attractive to dogs. Adjacent landowners should be vigilant in keeping their dogs from roaming into neighbouring baited areas.
- All baited areas are signposted with 1080 POISON RISK signage.



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1080 meat baits used for introduced predator control.

## Baiting locations

- Poison baiting operations extend from Karratha in the north, through forests of the south-west to areas east of Esperance.
- Baited areas include State forest, national parks, nature reserves and conservation areas. Please be aware that it is legal for the Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and other approved neighbours to bait as close as **5 metres** from your boundary and as close as **150 metres** from a known dwelling.
- Maps of areas baited as part of the *Western Shield* program can be viewed on [dbca.wa.gov.au/westernshield](http://dbca.wa.gov.au/westernshield).
- For more information about 1080 poison risk areas please contact your local Parks and Wildlife Service office.

## Native species protection and recovery

- Foxes and feral cats have been identified as a key cause of the extinction and decline of dozens of native animal species across Australia.
- As a result of fox and feral cat baiting, populations of more than 30 threatened native fauna species continue to persist in the wild or have increased in size in WA. Species being protected include some of the rarest animals in the world, including Gilbert's potoroo, western ground parrot and western swamp tortoise.
- *Western Shield* has also facilitated the reintroduction of native animals such as the chuditch, black-flanked rock-wallaby and numbat back into areas where they previously occurred.
- The poison used in baits is based on a naturally occurring toxin in *Gastrolobium* plants, to which native animals have developed a tolerance. **However, it is lethal to introduced animals such as foxes and feral cats, as well as domestic cats and dogs.**



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