



Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

ASSESSING THE HUMANENESS OF PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal welfare is an integral part of the planning and implementation of pest animal management and control programs for animals like wild dogs and rabbits. At the 15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference in Sydney, results of a project will be released assessing the relative humaneness of pest animal control methods to a range of control methods currently used in Australia.

Dr Glen Saunders, Program Leader of Terrestrial Products and Strategies at the Invasive Animals CRC, will report on how he developed the *Model for Assessing the Relative Humaneness of Pest Animal Control Methods* with Trudy Sharp from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

“This framework was developed in 2008 to assess the overall humaneness of pest animal control methods, using published scientific information to examine the negative impacts that a particular method has on an animal’s welfare.

A score is generated for each control method, so that the relative humaneness of different control methods can be compared and considered by landholder, decision makers and the greater community,” said Dr Saunders.

The humaneness assessments were performed by a panel of animal welfare and pest animal experts, with the assistance of experts in specific pest animal species. A total of 60 assessments for 12 different species, including wild dogs, foxes, feral cats, pest birds and feral horses, have been completed.

The results of the project, funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, will be presented as humaneness assessment fact sheets and published in hard copy and be available online at www.feral.org.au/animal-welfare/

The 15th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference will be held at the Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney from Monday 20 June to Thursday 23 June 2011. Presentations may be made available to the media upon request. Please contact Dr Glen Saunders (details below) for an interview.

Statement ends Monday 20 June 2011.

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FOR INTERVIEWS

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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