



Safety and cane toads

To keep your property toad free:

- ✓ Remove as much free standing water as possible.
- ✓ Cover swimming pools where appropriate.
- ✓ Turn off as many outside lights as possible.
- ✓ Maintain your fence to ensure there are no gaps, using anything from shade cloth to mesh with a minimum size of 25 millimetres square.
- ✓ Do regular toad busts in your yard.

For more information and assistance contact:

For Kimberley residents and visitors please call the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Kununurra office on (08) 9168 4200

For all other areas of WA please call 1800 44 WILD (9453)

Poisons Information Line 13 11 26

Kimberley Vet Centre on (08) 9169 1229

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/canetoads

Cane toads secrete a toxin that is poisonous to humans and animals. This brochure provides information about managing symptoms caused by cane toad poison but it does not replace the need to consult with your doctor, healthcare professional or veterinarian.



For native frog identification download the *Cane toad* app through iTunes.



Information current at July 2013.
This publication is available in alternative formats on request.



Cane toads are poisonous at all stages of their life cycle, including the egg and tadpole stage. The toxin is secreted and possibly squirted when the animal is roughly handled or feels threatened. The toxin is produced on the toad's shoulder glands and is present on the skin of its back.

To have an effect the venom needs to be swallowed or absorbed through mucous membranes such as those of the eye, nose or mouth.



For more information about identifying native frogs visit www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch



Department of Parks and Wildlife



Treatment for people

When the toxin is squirted onto the skin or into the eyes, first aid should be performed immediately. Poisoning advice is available on 13 11 26 anywhere in Australia, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Cane toad toxin can cause pain and severe irritation to the eyes and temporary visual disturbances. First aid treatment includes washing the eyes, mouth and nose with lots of water. Seek medical attention.

If toxin is squirted into the mouth, immediately flush the mouth with water and take the patient to the nearest hospital that has an emergency department. When swallowed, the toxin may affect the heart, blood pressure and breathing and can cause paralysis, salivation, twitching and vomiting. Death is possible in severe cases through cardiac arrest, sometimes within 15 minutes.



Prevention

To avoid coming into contact with cane toad toxin treat the animal with respect, wear gloves and wash your hands thoroughly with an antiseptic wash after touching frogs or toads.

Supervise and teach children the correct way to handle a cane toad and the potential dangers.

Treatment for pets

Cane toad poisoning occurs when dogs and cats pick toads up in their mouths. After coming into contact with cane toad toxin, your pet may:

- Drool and shake its head. Due to its corrosive and irritant nature, the poison will cause profuse salivation soon after your pet bites the toad. Following this, vomiting often occurs, especially in cats. Cats also show hindquarter weakness and adopt a fixed trance-like stare.
- Experience severe muscle trembling and shaking, which occurs rapidly.
- Stagger and appear to lack coordination.
- Have difficulty breathing.

If your dog is poisoned, it will usually suffer from seizures or convulsions. These convulsions are usually fatal unless you seek urgent veterinary attention.

The poison can also affect the heart of dogs and cats, causing immediate cardiac arrest. The animal will then lapse into a coma and rapidly progress to death.

Management

If your pet mouths a cane toad, it is vital that you remove all traces of the poison from its teeth and gums. Flush your pet's mouth and face with lots of running water by pointing a hose forward out of your pet's mouth, not down its throat. Tilt the animal's head down so you do not cause your pet to choke. Wash its eyes as well. Seek urgent veterinarian assistance.

Prevention

Cane toads are mostly active at night. To prevent your pets from being poisoned, place them in an area of your yard that you can keep free of cane toads. Check this area for cane toads regularly, especially at night.



Stage one juvenile



Stage two juvenile



Female cane toad



Male cane toad



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