



# Euthanasing cane toads

## Seeking assistance and advice:

If you would prefer not to kill the toads yourself, they may be transported in a secure container to the closest DPaW office. It is critical that the toads do not escape in transit

If escape does occur, you must advise DPaW

For Kimberley residents and visitors please call DPaW's Kununurra office on (08) 9168 4200

If you think you have seen a cane toad in areas other than the east Kimberley or require more information, please contact the **DPaW Cane Toad Hotline** on 1800 44 WILD (9453)

## For more information and assistance in the case of poisoning contact:

Poisons Information Line 13 11 26

Kimberley Vet Centre on (08) 9169 1229 if you need assistance for your pet

[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/canetoads](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/canetoads)

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



## Identification

Many native frogs are killed by people who mistakenly identify them as cane toads. It is therefore very important to confirm the identity of the animal before taking any action.

For help with identification see the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) brochure *Is it a cane toad?* available online at [www.dpaw.gov.au/canetoads](http://www.dpaw.gov.au/canetoads) or contact DPaW's Kununurra office on (08) 9168 4200.

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

## Other methods of destruction

An alternative method for killing cane toads is stunning followed by decapitation. This method requires a degree of skill and practice to be carried out humanely. It is important to note that this method increases the risk of exposure to cane toad toxins. Consider eye protection when employing this method.

## Disposal

Cane toad carcasses are still toxic after euthanasia, and need to be disposed of carefully. Dispose of carcasses by deep burial (at least 30 centimetres) in a location where they cannot be dug up by other animals, including pets.

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



Tadpole



Metamorph

For more information about identifying native frogs visit [www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch)

20120461\_0713 PDF



Department of Parks and Wildlife



## Recommendations for humanely killing cane toads

Cane toads are a declared pest in Western Australia under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*. The following techniques have been agreed to by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA and DPaW.

### Cooling and freezing

Cooling and freezing is a widely used and preferred method for members of the public to kill cane toads. The following three steps are recommended:

1. Place cane toads in a container, such as a plastic bag or container with a secure lid.
2. Put the container in a refrigerator for a minimum of four hours (this will anaesthetise the toads).
3. Put the container in a freezer until the toads are frozen solid (or at least 24 hours).

**Note:** if plastic bags are used, toads should be wrapped in paper to prevent their skin from freezing to cold surfaces.



Stage one juvenile



Stage two juvenile



### HopStop®

The pesticide HopStop® is recommended for use in backyards for small numbers of toads. Information and directions for use regarding this pesticide can be found at the manufacturer's website: <http://www.pestat.com.au/html/products.htm>.

Full directions are also provided on the label of each can.

**WARNING:** it is important to spray this product away from water including drains, creeks, lakes, rivers and wetlands as it is toxic to aquatic animals.



### Gassing with carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

Gassing cane toads with carbon dioxide is most suitable for community groups. The following steps are recommended:

1. Place cane toads in plastic garbage bags in batches of up to 20 cane toads per bag.
2. Fill the bag with carbon dioxide gas from a compressed gas cylinder.
3. Seal the bag with a knot, or preferably a cable tie, to make sure it is airtight.
4. Place bags in full shade.
5. Cane toads should be exposed to carbon dioxide gas for a minimum of four hours, when ambient temperatures are near 32 degrees Celsius. Cooler temperatures may require exposure times longer than four hours to achieve a 100 per cent kill rate.

**Note:** plastic garbage bags are flimsy and tear easily, so take care to ensure an effective seal is maintained during exposure.



Female cane toad



Male cane toad



For more information about identifying native frogs visit [www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/frogwatch)