

Foxes are found in most parts of Wollongong including urban areas. Foxes have been found to occur in urban areas such as Wollongong in densities up to 10 times greater than in rural areas. Foxes can survive on a variety of food sources, taking advantage of scraps, fruit, and other household garbage. In urban environments, their diet can consist of over 50% scavenged food scraps and left over pet food (DPI 2007).

Foxes can attack animals such as chickens, ducks and small dogs in urban areas.

Control of foxes

Foxes are very difficult to trap and methods of poisoning are not generally acceptable in urban environments where domestic dogs can be harmed by baits. In the majority of cases, effort is best put into managing the impact of foxes. This can be by providing appropriate "fox-proof" enclosures for pets that may be prey for foxes and ensuring animals are housed in these at night.

Fox-proofing

The Department of Primary Industries has a fact sheet that provides the following guidelines for fox-proof enclosures:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/vertebrate-pests/foxes-and-wild-dogs/foxes/urban-foxes>

- A roofed enclosure or fence > 2 m high + overhang of 30 cm.
- Wire mesh floor or bury wire mesh in the ground and outwards from the enclosure.

You can help by:

- Not leaving pet food out overnight
- Using enclosed compost bins
- Removing fruit at the base of garden trees and on lower branches
- Keeping garbage bins and skips covered
- Blocking entry points to drains and underneath buildings
- Keeping domestic animals such as poultry in fox-proof enclosures
- Reducing the cover from weeds such as lantana, pampas grass and blackberries
- Turning outside lighting off at night to prevent attracting insects
- Reporting fox sightings (or kills) to your local council.

Disclaimers

This information was believed to be correct at the date of publication.

This fact sheet is for general information purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal advice.