



Setting the scene

The cane toad is one of Queensland's best-known feral animals.

Originally introduced to control a beetle which feeds on sugarcane crops, the cane toad has thrived in Queensland's tropical and subtropical climate. It can now be found in much of Queensland and continues to spread into New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

This pest's impact has been far-reaching, with the invasion of cane toads thought to be an important factor in the decline of many native animals. The cane toad has become a nuisance to people and threatens the survival of many native animals.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management, QLD Government

What to do

Get to know your toad.

A pest animal, such as the cane toad, must be studied closely before it can be effectively controlled.

Read through the **Cane Toads in Australia Fact Sheet** and get to know your toad.

The following information will also help you design your cane toad trap.

- At night, cane toads gather to feed on insects that are attracted by an outdoor light.
- Male cane toads gather near water and call to attract females.
- Female cane toads need still or slow flowing water to lay their eggs.
- Cane toads will steal pet food if it is left out at night.
- Cane toads can go without food for up to two weeks.
- During summer, cane toads can go without water for two days.
- Cane toads do not like direct sunlight.
- Cane toads have two large glands that produce a toxin which can kill any animal that tries to eat it.
- Native animals such as goannas and quolls will mistakenly eat a cane toad.
- A cane toad can measure up to 20cm long.
- When a baby cane toad or toadlet is ready to leave its pond it measures 5cm long.
- A cane toad's hop can measure up to 100cm long and 40cm high.

What to do next

Design a humane cane toad trap.

The following design features must be included. The trap must:

- attract or lure cane toads;
- not hurt the cane toad during the process of capture;
- keep the cane toad safe once captured;
- be safely left in a location for up to three days;
- not be damaged by other animals who might try to break the trap to eat the cane toads;
- stop curious people from touching the cane toads
- have enough space to contain up to 20 adult cane toads; and
- allow for the removal of cane toads without harming them.

Before you start your design

Remember all animals need to be treated **humanely** even if they look ugly, damage the environment or annoy people.

What does the word **humane** mean?

The word **humane** means...

Therefore my trap should treat cane toads...

Have fun designing your cane toad trap!

FERAL FACT

Did you know that a cane toad is poisonous throughout all of its life cycle, including its eggs and tadpoles?

There are no effective predators in Australia which is bad news for animals who try to eat it. Scientists suspect the cane toad is the cause of recent declines in native animals such as quolls, goannas and fresh water crocodiles.

