Traps

- Wire mesh cage traps are used. These can be obtained from commercial suppliers and are available in a variety of sizes (e.g., a fox size cage is 90cm x 45cm x 45cm and made of 2.5 mm welded wire with a mesh size of 50mm). The traps have a spring door that is activated either by a treadle plate or a hook mechanism.

Lures

- Olfactory stimuli such as fox faeces or urine (or a mixture of both) or a commercially prepared lure (e.g., synthetic fermented egg) may be used to lure foxes into the trap.
- The attractiveness of lures will vary with season and location.

Meat baits

- A handful of meat bait is placed inside the cage trap. Rabbit, lamb, chicken, and kangaroo have all been used as bait.
- Attractiveness and palatability of the bait will vary with season and location.

Owner: NSW Department of Primary Industries. Excerpt from the March 2022 publication.

Procedures

Selection of trap sites

- Traps should be set along fences, tracks and trails or areas frequented by foxes for example, scent pads, scratch points, holes in fences, around carcases.
- The location of all trap sites must be accurately recorded. This information should be readily available to others in case the trapper is unable to return to check traps.
- Do not place in areas where the traps may be interfered with/damaged by large stock or humans.

Placing and setting the trap

- It is preferable to set traps at the end of each day and check early each morning. If traps are left set during the day, they should be checked again in late afternoon.
- Before setting each trap ensure that it is functioning properly.

- Where possible place the traps parallel to objects such as fences, logs or sheds with the rear of the cage against an obstruction to prevent foxes taking the main bait without going into the trap.
- Cage traps should be set squarely on the ground and the doors of the trap bent upward to increase the openness of the trap space.
- Place the meat bait at the rear of the trap, attached to the hook mechanism if present. A second piece of meat is placed at the mouth of the trap.
- Cover the floor of the trap with 3-5cm of soil.
- If using lures place them in suitable positions inside and outside the trap.
- The trap should be pegged to the ground to prevent the animal from tipping it over and injuring itself and/or releasing the trap door.

Owner: NSW Department of Primary Industries. Excerpt from the March 2022 publication.