

Frequently Asked Questions on 1080 Baits

Has 1080 stopped killing wild dogs?

No. Scientific evidence confirms that 1080 is still an effective and efficient poison for killing a variety of pest animals. However, some environmental and practical factors mean that 1080 baits can sometimes fail to reduce wild dog populations. To kill an animal, the bait must first be eaten by a susceptible animal *and then* have enough poison in it to work. Several factors contribute to this, including the quality and quantity of the bait, weather conditions, and the presence of other animals likely to eat the bait first. If animals receive sub-lethal doses and then recover, they may be more wary of eating a bait a second time. The challenge is to kill enough wild dogs before baits lose their potency or are taken by other animals.

Wild dogs don't eat baits because they're predators, not scavengers, right?

No. Wild dogs are definitely both predators *and* scavengers. However, like humans, wild dogs are very individual, having different likes and dislikes despite their obvious commonalities. Wild dogs might leave baits uneaten for a variety of reasons, but not because they do not scavenge. Wild dogs often pass by baits the first time but then come back and eat them a short time later.

Why would a wild dog eat a bait when it has fresh meat (i.e. livestock/prey) available?

As mentioned above, wild dogs are not only predators but also scavengers, and it is far easier for them to eat a 'free' meal than to chase an animal down. While dogs usually prefer a fresh meal, most will eat baits if they smell and taste good enough. Baits can kill significant numbers of wild dogs in the presence of abundant livestock and wildlife prey.

Can pet dogs be poisoned by baits intended for wild dogs?

Yes. Accidental poisoning of domestic animals is most likely to happen if they stray into baited areas and eat bait. Another way pet dogs can be poisoned is if poisoned wild dogs or foxes eat a bait, walk into a pet's territory, and then vomit it up. Such vomitus although not long lasting in the environment is both attractive and potentially lethal to pet dogs.

Do wild dogs refuse baits after they've tasted warm meat?

No. Many wild dogs succumb to baiting programs despite having previously eaten freshly captured prey.

Is there any actual evidence that wild dogs take baits?

Yes, plenty. First hand observations, camera recordings and bait-take experiments have all shown that wild dogs take baits. The number of wild dogs that take baits varies from study to study, but baiting can reduce wild dog activity by over 70%, and sometimes up to 100%.