

# Dog aware fact



## Exclusion fencing—netting

Good fences can reduce livestock predation. They are most effective when used with other methods of damage control such as baiting, trapping or livestock guard animals. However, fences cannot exclude all wild dogs and the larger the area, the more difficult it is.

A dog's response to a fence depends on its experience and motivation. Some dogs eventually learn to climb higher, dig deeper, or take advantage of damaged fences to gain entry.

### **If you are dog aware:**

**You know that it is your responsibility to protect your livestock from wild dog attack.**

Conventional netting fences and electric fences are used to control stock and exclude animal pests. Most wild dogs readily pass over, under or through conventional livestock fences. The Dingo Barrier Fence, which is several thousand km long, is an example of an effective conventional fence.

Electric fences have been widely used to exclude predators, with some success. In Africa they have been used to exclude elephants from crops, and in North America they are used to protect livestock from coyotes, wolves and bears.

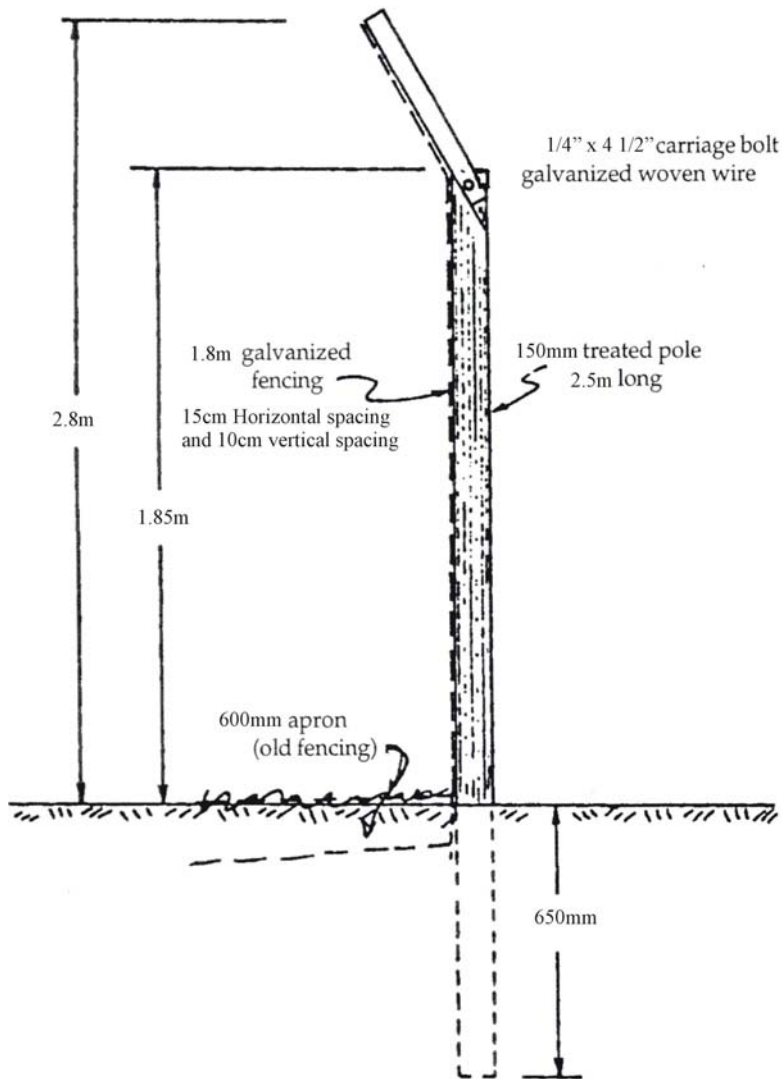
### **Constructing and maintaining conventional netting fences**

Well-maintained, conventional netting fences will deter wild dogs from entering pastures. Horizontal spacing of the mesh should be less than 15 cm and the vertical spacings less than 10 cm. A wire apron 600 mm long and buried 200 mm deep will discourage dogs from digging.

A fence at least 1.85 m high will prevent wild dogs from jumping over. Residents wishing to build fences over two m in height will need to contact their local council for advice and certification.

To stop dogs from climbing over the fence, all corner posts should be erected using box stays. Also, an overhang can be used and electric wires can be strung along the top of the fence.

Where the fence crosses water courses and channels that are subject to run-off, netting can be hung from a cable in perpendicular strips on the downstream side of the fence. The bottom of the netting should be laid on the downstream side, flat on the ground to a distance of 1.5 m from the centre line of the fence, and logged firmly to the ground with straight timber. These areas should be checked after each flow to ensure they are still dog-proof.



Grids should not be used in these fences. Gates should be the same height and construction as the fence. All gates should be framed for a snug fit, leaving no gaps through which a dog can pass.

Dog-proof fences of this type are expensive. However, the cost of a fence should be weighed against the cost of lost stock.

**If you are dog aware:**  
**You know that good fencing will limit wild dog predation.**