

Dog aware fact



Shooting

It is mandatory in Queensland for all users of weapons to hold a current firearms licence. In general terms, a weapon includes a gun or other thing ordinarily described as a firearm in *The Weapons Act 1990*. The Weapons Licensing Branch of Queensland Police (phone 07 3015 7777) can advise on licence types and conditions.

Shooting is an opportunistic way of controlling wild dogs as they are seldom seen during the day. In areas where control is carried out, they are especially wary of people and keep out of sight. Shooting is not an option for controlling wild dogs in built-up areas.

Ensuring a humane kill

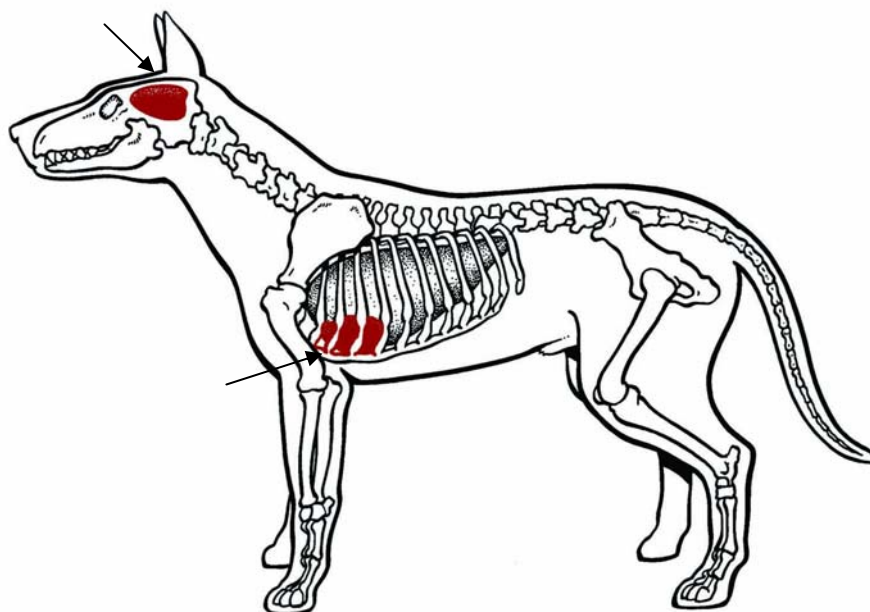
For a humane, fast kill, the bullet must disrupt tissue that is immediately vital to life. This includes the brain, the spinal cord forward of the diaphragm, the lungs, the heart and the large blood vessels above it, and often the liver.

Shots should be aimed to destroy the brain, or the heart/great vessels of the target animal. Shooting at other parts of the animal is undesirable.

The three shooting methods recommended for destroying the brain are:

- frontal method—aim horizontally at the point of intersection of lines taken from the base of each ear to the opposite eye
- temporal method—aim horizontally from the side of the head at the point midway between the eye and the base of the ear
- poll method—aim behind the head at a point midway along a line drawn from the base of each ear.

For heart shots, aim at the forward chest, above the point of the elbow.



Vital points to target on wild dogs

After shooting an animal, always check to ensure that it is dead. If it is not dead, but wounded, take all reasonable actions to locate and destroy it as soon as possible. You need to ask a landholder's permission if you follow a wounded dog onto their property.

The law on shooting wild dogs worrying livestock

It is legal to shoot a wild dog that is worrying your livestock provided you:

- have the necessary firearms licence and use the firearm according to state firearms laws
- believe the dog is or is likely to attack your livestock and is not under someone's control
- live on land that is subject to a rural fire levy
- comply with other laws such as the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

While you can legally shoot a wild dog, you cannot shoot a roaming domestic dog unless you believe the dog is likely to attack livestock and you meet the rest of the requirements above.

Landholders can use private contractors providing they have the appropriate licences and follow legal conditions for use of weapons.

If you are dog aware:

You know that shooting is only an opportunistic way of controlling wild dogs, and that control will be more successful if you integrate other methods.