

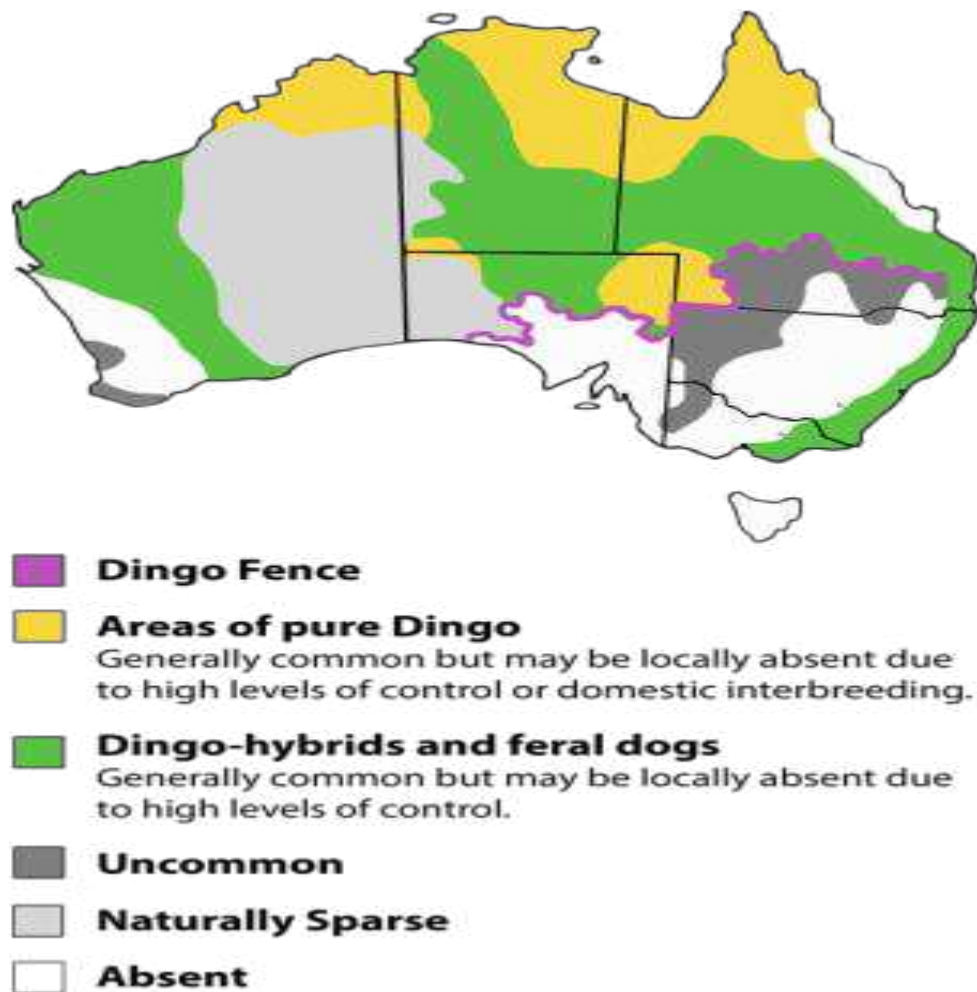
Wild Dog

By Errol Corry

Wild dogs' prey on a variety of animals including mammals, birds and reptiles of all sizes from insects to water buffalo. However, they prefer to eat small and medium-sized mammals when available, including native mice, dunnarts, bandicoots and wallabies. Wild dogs have been implicated in the decline of several species, both historically and in the recent past.



Dingoes originated in Asia where they were present possibly 10 000 to 14 000 years ago and were derived from wolves. Aboriginal people brought the dingo to Australia approximately 4000 years ago. The dingo never reached Tasmania. Domestic dogs were brought into Australia by Europeans in 1788 and their release into the wild has continued since. Both dingoes and wild domestic dogs are the same species, *Canis familiaris*.



Control methods for wild dogs involve baiting, trapping and shooting. Most hunters will utilise shooting of wild dogs though some will also employ trapping methods.

I will deal briefly with howling dogs in & shooting them. Do your research well and know your country before you setup. Have a good set of binoculars with you & a second shooter is also useful. Pick somewhere with a good shooting position, if you set up for the morning, get there before dawn & if you can get at least a 270-degree view, even better. High ground is always good though do not silhouette yourself, setup in front of a log, a rock or stump. Don't be facing east as the rising sun will be in your eyes, make sure you have the wind at your back. Also be aware when choosing your shooting position that warming air rises & cooling air descends. Dogs have great eyesight so do not move once you have picked your spot. Howling sequence; one long howl, three second pause another medium howl, three seconds more & then a short howl at the end. From here you watch – keep an eye out for stock moving about suddenly or looking about, listen for birds making a distress call. Consider another call in 10-30 minutes.

A .223 is an ideal calibre though I would not go any lighter. If you have a large capacity magazine, then good, if not have some rounds handy. The reason being your howls may well be answered by a pack of several dogs, you have to be ready to put as many on the ground as fast as you can, be prepared for running shots as after the first shot they may well disperse in all directions. And on a side note, if you are wanting to

improve your running shots join your local clay target club as the fast shotgun work will pay dividends in this style of hunting.



Wild dogs can be found on almost all our club properties.

References for this article

Clynton Spencer – GHAA Stats Email

pestsmart.org.au