



Moreton Island is cane toad free

Help keep it that way



That's why I care for the
natural environment.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Moreton Island is one of the few locations in coastal Queensland where cane toads are not found. Because of this, the island provides the best example of pre-European diversity, abundance and richness of animal populations in Brisbane. Cane toads present a serious threat to the biological diversity of Moreton Island.

Cane toads are highly toxic to most animals if swallowed. They kill native fish and reptiles and compete with native animals such as frogs for food. They are poisonous at all stages of their lifecycle.

Check for hitchhiking free loaders

Cane toads are hitchhikers. Before travelling, take a few moments to check for cane toads. Some favourite toad hide-outs include the spaces in and around:

- firewood
- gravel and any kind of building material
- fishing gear
- soil and mulch
- camping gear, tents and tarpaulins (especially if stored under houses)
- timbers and other stored materials
- pallets
- tyre wells
- pot plants
- trailers and swags.

If you find a cane toad, ensure that it is disposed of humanely.

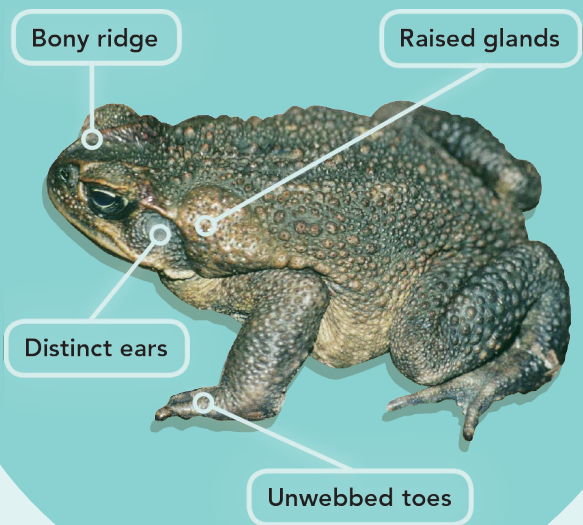
What can you do to protect Moreton Island?

On Moreton Island

- If you believe you have found a cane toad you should firstly identify and report it. Help with identification and reporting is available by calling Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on (07) 3408 2710.
- Once identified, cane toads should be euthanised using the technique described on the back of this brochure.
- If you find cane toad eggs (long strands of black eggs unique to cane toads) in water, you should remove and dispose of them by placing them somewhere in sunlight.

Know your toad

Cane toads can be distinguished from frogs by the bony ridge that overhangs each eye and extends to above the nostrils. Cane toads have claw-like unwebbed toes for digging. A distinctive visor extends over each eye, like a sharp eyebrow.



Cane toads are usually lumpy with brown to yellowish-brown colouring on top and mottled brown and white underneath. The skin of the cane toad is thick and leathery.

Call: a continuing motor-like 'tudle-udle-udle'.

Eggs are laid in long strings of tough, rope-like jelly with developing toadlets appearing as a single strand of tiny black beads often below the water surface, see photos below.



Cane toad or native frog?

Before killing any animal you may think is a cane toad, ensure it has been correctly identified. The information and pictures below illustrate the difference between cane toads and native frog species found on Moreton Island that could easily be mistaken for a cane toad.



Scarlet-sided pobblebonk
(*Limnodynastes terraereginea*)



This native frog can grow up to 80 mm in length. It can be distinguished from the cane toad by the presence of yellow, orange and/or red pigment on the flanks and groin. It also has a uniform cream colouration of the belly.



Dusky toadlet / Sandy gungan (*Uperoleia fusca*)



This native frog species looks like a miniature cane toad. It can be distinguished from a cane toad by the presence of yellow, orange or red colouration on the groin area and/or on the hindlimbs. This colouration is visible when hind legs are pulled backwards, away from the body.

Cane toads can grow bigger than 20 centimetres long. Most native frogs are smaller than this.

Humane euthanasia of cane toads

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) currently advises the use of a registered aerosol spray as the most humane euthanasia method. These specifically developed sprays contain the active ingredient Chloroxylenol (e.g. HopStop®) and are now commercially available for this purpose. Contact your local hardware store to see if they stock it.

Step 1

Treat each toad with sufficient spray to ensure it is anaesthetised.

Step 2

Apply a second application of spray after the toad has stopped moving.

Step 3

After two hours, check the toad is dead and then place in your household garbage. Cane toads can also be buried deeply in a well-contained compost heap as they are a good natural fertiliser. Make sure pets cannot reach this compost.

Step 4

Thoroughly wash your hands before and after touching cane toads.

Important

When handling cane toads always protect your eyes as toads can squirt toxins from their glands.

First aid treatment includes flushing the eyes, mouth and nose with water if exposed to toad toxin. Seek medical attention if symptoms persist.



Cane toad detection dog

Council is committed to keeping Moreton Island cane toad free. As part of this commitment, annually Council deploys a cane toad detection dog to the island. The cane toad detection dog performs regular searches with its handler and educates locals on prevention measures.

Brisbane City Council
Information
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