



## Cane Toad Handling

Adult cane toads are active at night and are usually quite visible with a torch, in the open and especially around waterways.

Cane Toads are generally not dangerous to handle. They have no sharp teeth or claws and tend not to struggle fiercely. Their poison is only exuded when the toad is stressed, but any contact with it should be avoided. It is exuded from the large glands behind the ears.

- Where practical, it is best to **wear gloves** as toads can carry salmonella and other bacteria.
- Always **wash your hands** thoroughly after handling cane toads.

### **Identification — make sure it's a toad**

Cane toads can be easily mistaken for a number of native frogs - use your **ID guide**



Keep cane toads in plastic bags as they can easily escape from buckets.

### **Euthanasia**

There are several methods of euthanasia that are considered appropriate for cane toads, however only two of these are practical for most travellers.

- Fatal Concussion

Cane toads can be humanely destroyed with a heavy blow to top of their skull. This can be done with a spade/shovel, hammer or heavy piece of wood.

This method requires considerable care as there is a risk of poison being squirted from their glands. Glasses must be worn and care taken to see that animal is in fact killed and not merely stunned.

- Freezing

Cane toads, once collected in plastic bags, can be placed in a freezer and will die painlessly as their metabolism slows to a stop. Left in a freezer overnight the animals will be dead by morning. Using a plastic bag (or even double bagged) ensures that other freezer contents are not contaminated.

### **Disposal**

The best way to dispose of dead cane toads is to bury them. This should be done away from waterways, camping grounds and public places in a hole that is at least 600mm (without the plastic bags). Bags can be disposed of with your other rubbish.

You can place live toads in any toad trap. A toad detention centre is also being established in Timber Creek. It is an offence to bring toads into WA.

### **Stay Safe**

While we want to see every cane toad stopped – human safety is more important. Many waterways contain **saltwater crocodiles**; they can live many kilometres inland from the coast. If you are not sure – play it safe.