

HUNT SAFE HUNT LEGAL

BE A RESPONSIBLE PIG DOGGER

This booklet contains important information about being a safe, legal and responsible pig dogger. It also contains advice on what you can do to minimise the risk of disease to you, your family and your dogs.

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



NSW Police Force



Department of
Primary Industries



NSW Police Force





ILLEGAL PIG DOGGING'S SOCIAL IMPACT ON FARMERS

Fourth generation cattle graziers Peter and Skye McDonald and their three daughters have had enough.

'Every week illegal pig doggers enter our property by breaking fences and gates to illegally hunt pigs,' Peter said.

'We are at wits end and feel powerless to stop these people. It's to the point now that my daughters don't feel safe to play outside anymore and do normal things that farm kids do around our property.

'I've met some of these pig doggers and they seem like reasonable people, but they just don't get it.

'They're not doing me a service by cleaning up the pigs, I already have pest control activities for them. What they are doing is scaring the hell out of my wife and kids! It's got to stop!'

BEING A RESPONSIBLE PIG DOGGER

Pig hunting with dogs is a popular recreational and commercial activity in NSW. Responsible pig doggers are ethical, trustworthy hunters who actively promote safe and legal pig hunting with dogs.

However, some pig doggers choose to do the wrong thing by hunting illegally. Illegal hunting can include hunting without permission on private or public land, hunting without a licence on public land or breaching hunting and animal cruelty regulations.

WHERE CAN I LEGALLY HUNT FOR PIGS WITH DOGS IN NSW?

You can legally pig dog hunt:

Private Property

- » On private property with permission of the landowner or manager.

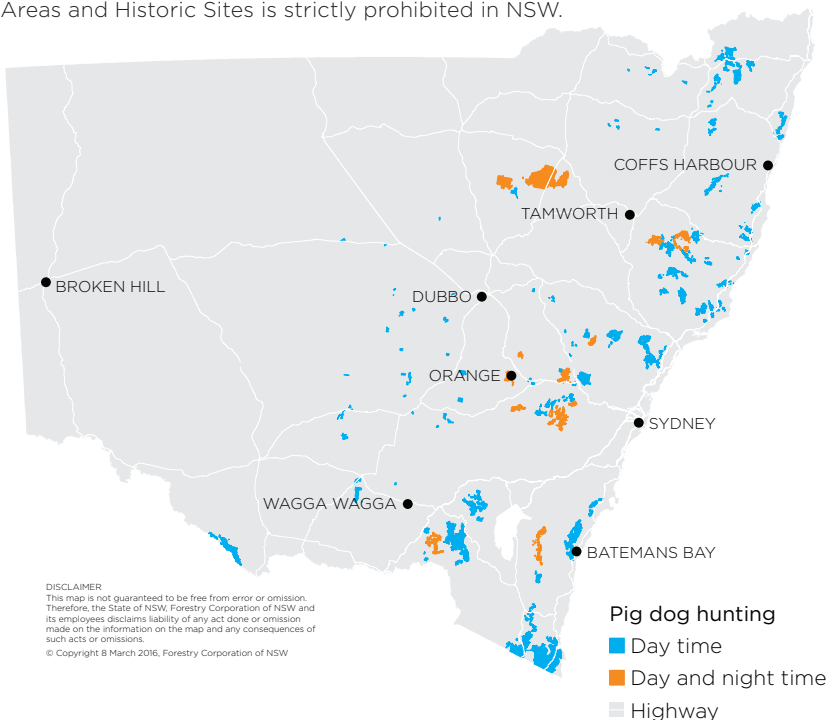
Some Public Lands

- » In NSW, there are 189 State forests where you can hunt pigs with dogs. You must have a current R-Licence and written permission from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Game Licensing Unit.

Pig hunting with dogs during the day is allowed in 170 of these State forests. In a further 19 State forests you can pig hunt with dogs in the daytime and at night.

Specific conditions apply to the hunting of pigs with dogs in State forests. For more information go to: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/what-can-i-hunt/night-time-pig-hunting-on-public-land.

Note: Hunting in National Parks, Nature Reserves, State Conservation Areas and Historic Sites is strictly prohibited in NSW.



HUNTING PIGS WITH DOGS ON PUBLIC LAND (NSW STATE FORESTS)

Prior to hunting in State forests in NSW, you will need a Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence) and written permission from the DPI Game Licensing Unit.

The R-Licence gets you access to hunt on more than 2 million hectares of State forests throughout NSW. The R-Licence also provides:

- » Public liability insurance for up to \$20 million dollars (public or private land);
- » Hunter education information and regular updates on hunting topics;
- » Being part of a dynamic and responsible culture.

For information on obtaining an R-Licence or other information on licensed reputable hunting in NSW call the DPI Game Licensing Unit on (02) 6391 3750 or go to the DPI website - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting.



R-LICENSED HUNTERS LEARNING ABOUT TRAINING DOGS AT A PIG DOG HUNTER EDUCATION WORKSHOP.

HUNTING PIGS WITH DOGS ON PRIVATE LAND

If you are hunting on **private land** you will need permission from the landholder. Some landholders allow responsible pig doggers onto their properties. Initial contact is usually by cold calling (knocking on doors and introducing yourself), introduction through friends or word of mouth.

Responsible pig doggers, particularly those with a game hunting licence and membership with a DPI Approved Hunting Organisation (AHO) may be granted access to private lands more readily than other hunters. This is especially the case when you approach land owners and politely introduce yourself.

Once you have permission, a handy **property log** is available at the back of this booklet to help you keep track of your hunting properties. Use the form to show Police and DPI Inspectors that you have permission to hunt if stopped for a compliance check.

'NO PERMISSION = NO HUNTING'



WHY TAKE THE RISK?

Taking the time before you hunt to get permission from the landowner or manager and getting an R-Licence (if required) is a small inconvenience when compared with the consequences of being caught illegal pig dogging.

The penalties for illegal pig dogging can include:

- » Expensive on-the-spot fines.
- » Seizure and forfeiture of hunting equipment including firearms, knives, tracking collars and GPS units.
- » Seizure of hunting dogs.
- » Seizure and forfeiture of motor vehicles.
- » Suspension or cancellation of Hunting Licences.
- » Court action, including substantial fines and custodial sentences.



ILLEGAL PIG DOGGING IS A CRIME

- WHY TAKE THE RISK?

MANAGING DISEASE RISKS FOR PIG DOGGERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR DOGS

Pig dogging is not without disease risks to humans or dogs. Some debilitating diseases are carried by feral pigs in NSW and can be spread, including:

Brucellosis – Infection is from exposure to pigs' blood, tissues and urine and can cause symptoms in both humans and dogs. Exposure to reproductive organs is one of the major risks. Symptoms in humans can include fever, sweats, headaches, back pain and weakness. Symptoms in dogs can include enlarged testicle/s, enlarged prostate, back pain, lameness, vomiting, lethargy, enlarged lymph nodes and blood in urine. These symptoms can last for months and infected dogs may need to be put down.

Q fever – Infection is from fluid or excreta of infected pigs with clinical symptom only evident in humans. Bad cases can cause fevers, headache, confusion, chills, sweats, cough, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea. One to two percent of people with acute Q fever die of the disease.

PROTECTING YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR DOGS

- » Don't feed dogs offal from pigs and keep dogs away from pig blood, this includes when transporting dead pigs on vehicles.
- » If you or family members interact with hunting dogs do not allow dogs to lick humans and always wash your hands afterwards.
- » When handling pig carcasses ensure any cuts on your skin are always covered with waterproof dressings such as disposable gloves, minimise your exposure to fluids and organs and always wash your hands and arms with soap and water afterwards.

If you have hunted feral pigs with dogs in north western NSW in the recent past you are encouraged to get your dogs tested for Brucellosis at your local veterinarian. For the cost of a vet consultation it is worth the peace of mind. The laboratory test is free and will be charged to the Department of Primary Industries.

6 BASICS OF BEING A RESPONSIBLE PIG DOGGER

1. Always get permission to hunt before hunting.
2. Set a good example to others and promote ethical, safe and legal pig dogging.
3. Be mindful of the disease risks to you, your family and your dogs when pig dogging and always practice good hygiene.
4. Before hunting ensure your dogs are trained for obedience and trained not to chase stock and wildlife.
5. Ensure that pigs are dispatched quickly and not subjected to unnecessary pain.
6. Join a DPI Approved Hunting Organisation (AHO) that promotes safe, ethical and legal pig dogging such as the Australian Pig Doggers and Hunters Association Inc (APDHA). More information about the APDHA is available on their website www.apdha.org.au. For more information on DPI Approved Hunting Organisations go to the DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/approved-hunting-organisations.



DON'T DOG IT! HUNT SAFE, HUNT LEGAL BE A RESPONSIBLE PIG DOGGER



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