## Fox control

Many residents have concerns regarding the presence of foxes in their area.

It is acknowledged that foxes move freely between public and private land and can be very difficult to control at a local level. Foxes find shelter in many different forms such as under houses, in sheds, in hollow logs, under rock piles, in drainpipes, and under blackberry patches. Foxes often live in backyards or sheds without the knowledge of the householders.

The population of foxes in urban areas is estimated to be 10-20 foxes per square kilometre which is about four times higher than that of rural areas. This is on account of greater availability of food, habitat and difficulty of meaningful control measures.

A fox removed from its territory will quickly be replaced with another. Hence it is advisable to concentrate on eliminating those things which are attractive to them (such as habitat and food) rather than trying to remove them.

### Control:

In urban areas baiting and shooting foxes is not appropriate.

Even if an individual fox was removed it would quickly be replaced by another. The best way to reduce fox numbers is to make the local environment less suitable for fox survival. To do this, take the following steps:

* Keep poultry and pets securely housed
* Remove rubbish and blackberry bushes where foxes could shelter
* Put food scraps in a compost bin with a secure lid
* Rake up fallen fruit from fruit trees and compost
* Block entrances leading under you house if you suspect afox
* Never leave pet food outside over night

See the State Government [website](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/established-invasive-animals/integrated-fox-control-for-urban-and-semi-urban-areas) for further information on urban fox control: