

Feral Pigeon Control Fast Facts



CONTACT US

8132 3600

www.eha.sa.gov.au

eha@eha.sa.gov.au

The feral pigeon is a descendant of the domestic homing pigeons introduced into Australia from Europe. Pigeons live 3-4 years in the wild and do not migrate. They stay near their birth site, which may be your house. Feral flocks have been able to increase in numbers and dominate the urban landscape due to the availability of food, fresh water and secure breeding sites. Remember to always check if the pigeon is feral, if there is a tag around the leg the pigeon is owned by somebody.

Control Techniques

Research has shown that simply using lethal methods of pigeon control (culling) is not effective in the long term. Implementing non-lethal control techniques is the most effective long term solution to reducing the pigeon population. These include:

Food Reduction

Remove sources of food and water (outdoor pet food bowls, bird baths, bird feeders). Ensure that refuse, especially food refuse, is properly stored and food spillage is kept to a minimum.

Destruction of Nesting Sites

Pigeon nests are very simple and often consist of a few stiff twigs. Look for nests along building ledges, bridge supports, air conditioning units, windowsills etc. Pigeons are very persistent and destruction of the nest at regular intervals will be beneficial along with a combination of other control methods.

Remember to Wear Protective Equipment

Licensed pest control operators and 'do-it-yourselfers' must take proper precautions when tackling pest control projects. Respirators, goggles and protective clothing should be worn when cleaning bird sites particularly those with large amounts of droppings present.

Proofing/Deterrents

It is important to prevent pigeons from gaining access to roosting and nesting sites by sealing doorways windows, open eaves etc. This may require extensive renovations or may be as simple as sealing a crack or crevice using materials such as mesh or wooden panels.

Products such as netting (bird wire or mesh), wire coils or 'pigeon spikes' prevent pigeons from landing or roosting on building surfaces. Please note that poorly designed or maintained pigeon proofing can lead to birds becoming fatally trapped. It is important for such products to be installed by a professional.

Other methods include; scare devices such as a combination of audio or visual deterrents, or the application of gel products that pigeons find sticky and uncomfortable to stand on.

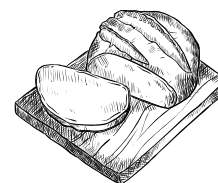
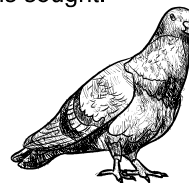
Trapping

In many incidences trapping does not have a long term effect on the pigeon population. The number of birds caught and killed during trapping operations can be replaced as quickly as the birds are removed. If you decide to implement a trapping program, you

must remember that the source of food must be removed otherwise the trapping exercise may be pointless.

Eradication

Licensed pest control operators use a painless narcotic agent which causes the bird to overdose and go to sleep. The theory is that the birds take the bait, sit and wait to be picked up and disposed. Unfortunately in many instances many of the birds feed, fly off and can die an inhumane death. Large numbers of other birds may also take the bait and die in the same way. It is important that if this control option is used, professional advice is sought.



Shooting

Licensed pest control operators kill pigeons with an air gun to reduce pigeon numbers. Every situation will be assessed by the pest control operator to determine if shooting is a viable option. It is important to realise that if birds are shot on high inaccessible ledges they cannot be retrieved to be humanely dispatched. As with all the above control methods, killing adults may also leave juvenile flightless birds in nests to die of starvation.

It will also be in the best interest for neighbouring properties to proof their property otherwise pigeons will quickly take up residence and simply move the problem around without reducing the flock size.