

ENSYSTEX HOPSTOP[®]

Humane Spray Control for Cane Toads

THE ONLY PRODUCT APPROVED FOR
CANE TOAD CONTROL

EASY TO USE

HOPSTOP[®] is a convenient and effective way to control cane toads. When used properly it is safe for people and pets. The only real solution.

HUMANE

HOPSTOP anaesthetises toads within seconds, and kills them humanely in 30-60 minutes.



If you love your pets, Australia's environment and wildlife, then HOPSTOP is simply the best and most humane toad control product you will find.

HOPSTOP is recommended by the Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee for euthanasing toads for school laboratory studies and referenced by the RSPCA as a humane method of killing cane toads.



- ✓ **PREMIUM QUALITY** YOUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR A FULL REFUND
- ✓ **COMMITTED TO YOU** TECHNICAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE 24HRS 365 DAYS A YEAR
- ✓ **UNRIVALLED EXPERTISE** ALWAYS DELIVERING YOU THE ADVICE YOU NEED, WHEN YOU NEED IT

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ENSYSTEX[®] HOPSTOP



THE CANE TOAD - AUSTRALIA'S MOST UNWANTED HOUSE GUEST

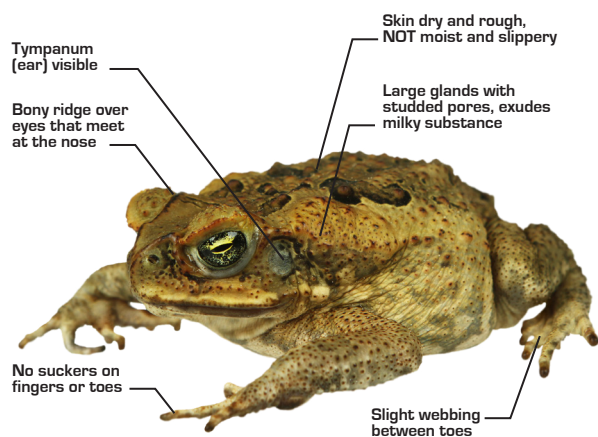
Sometimes, what might seem a good idea can produce some devastating side-effects. Such is the case with the introduction to Australia of the cane toad.

Originally seen as a viable solution for controlling the beetles in Queensland's cane fields, they quickly multiplied and soon became an even bigger threat to the environment.

HOW TO SPOT A CANE TOAD

Cane Toads are usually very large, generally between 9 - 15 cm in length, but they have been known to grow up to 24 cm in length! They are heavily built and the skin on top is rough, dry and covered in warts. The colour can vary from grey, olive, yellow brown to red brown, but they are never brightly coloured. Their underparts are lighter in colour and are usually a mottled brown. Their heads are bony with a pointed snout and over their eyes are distinctive ridges which meet above the nose. Behind and slightly below each eye is a distinctive circular ear drum. On top of each shoulder is a large sack - this is the toxin-producing parotoid gland. Cane toads have slightly webbed, leathery hind feet while the front feet have no webbing and are relatively small in size. Cane toads have a particularly upright stance and they walk or move small distances in short, rapid hops, unlike most native species which leap. Male toads are smaller and have more warts than females. During the breeding season males will develop 'nuptial pads', which look like dark lumps, on their first two fingers. These assist the male with holding onto the female while mating.

Adult cane toads are both nocturnal and visual hunters. They need a lot of food to survive so they often congregate in open areas, such as on roads or lawns, where they can spot their next meal. They prefer places that are well lighted, such as below street lamps or around houses, because this is where insects are attracted in the evenings. Cane toads are a terrestrial animal, however they do need daily access to water. This means the toad is most vulnerable during the dry season as they need to stay close to water as the environment begins to dry up.



HOW TO USE

Full directions for using HOPSTOP are on each can. You should read and understand them before using the product. The directions provided below are a guide to using HOPSTOP, but you should also read the label on the can.

- 1 Hold HOPSTOP on a downwards-directed, 45° angle and spray the toad for 2-3 seconds from a distance of 20-50 cm. This helps ensure that the spray is directed and consequently absorbed by the cane toad. One can of HOPSTOP will kill about 30-40 average-sized toads.
- 2 The toad will hop for a short time, then stop moving and flatten out into a 'hunched' position. If you think that a lot of the spray missed the toad, apply another short spray. Large toads (more than 10 cm long) should be sprayed a second time.
- 3 If possible, let the toad stay where it stops moving. It will lose consciousness and die there. The dead toad should be collected 1-2 hours later and placed into garbage. **DO NOT directly handle toads** - whether alive or dead, wear gloves or use implements such as tongs.
- 4 HOPSTOP should only be used outdoors. **DO NOT** use inside buildings or enclosed areas and **DO NOT** inhale the spray. **DO NOT** spray it toward yourself, other people or animals and avoid direct application to plant foliage. **DO NOT** spray it into or over dams or fish ponds.

Cane toads (*Chaunus marinus* Frost) synthesise and store a mixture of toxic compounds, collectively known as bufotoxins, as a defensive measure against potential predators. The toxins are synthesised in glands in the skin, which in juvenile and adult toads are present at high concentration in specialised 'parotid' glands located on their 'shoulders'. When a toad is under threat or stress the toxins can be discharged from these glands, commonly as an oozing secretion, and less frequently as a discharge that can be expelled for up to two metres. These toxins make cane toads a poisonous prey for a wide range of native Australian predators including quolls, crocodiles and goannas. On the basis of their impact on predators in the natural environment, cane toads are listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act as a 'key threatening process'.

Toads are also toxic for companion animals such as dogs and cats. Animals which eat or even 'mouth' a toad are exposed to the toxins, which can be absorbed directly through mucous membranes into the bloodstream, causing rapid development of symptoms of poisoning. While there are many anecdotal reports of companion animal deaths following contact with cane toads, published reports from Australia and the USA suggest that the survival rate of animals that receive veterinary support is in the order of 95%. Nonetheless, it is clear that poisoning of pets by cane toads causes considerable inconvenience and expense to owners, as well as animal and human trauma.

Toad toxins are also capable of making humans seriously ill, and of causing serious skin and eye irritation. Human exposure is usually accidental, resulting from accidental introduction of the toxin into the mouth or eyes. The toxin can cause intense pain and severe irritation to the eyes, and temporary or permanent blindness (NRCMA). As for other animals, the toxins are absorbed directly by humans through mucous membranes, and oral or ocular exposure requires immediate hospitalisation.

EFFICACY

Three locations were selected where toad densities facilitated collection of sufficient numbers of toads across a range of sizes for use in tests. These locations were in the Mareeba and Townsville areas of far north Queensland and in the Samford Valley just west of Brisbane, in south eastern Queensland. Selected toads had weights recorded and were then treated with either one spray (duration of approximately 2-3 seconds) or two sprays ('dual spray', comprising one short spray of 1-2 seconds, followed by another 2-3 second spray when the toad had stopped moving). Previous dose selecting trials in laboratory and field trial situations had demonstrated that large toads require a higher dose for maximum product effect.

Toads became (on average) immobilised less than one minute after treatment, progressively losing responsiveness to external stimuli thereafter, and dying about 45 minutes after treatment. All observable indications suggested that the product provides a humane method for lethal control of toads.

Tests of the dual spray method showed 100% control efficacy against a sample of toads that included large individuals of greater than 200 g weight.