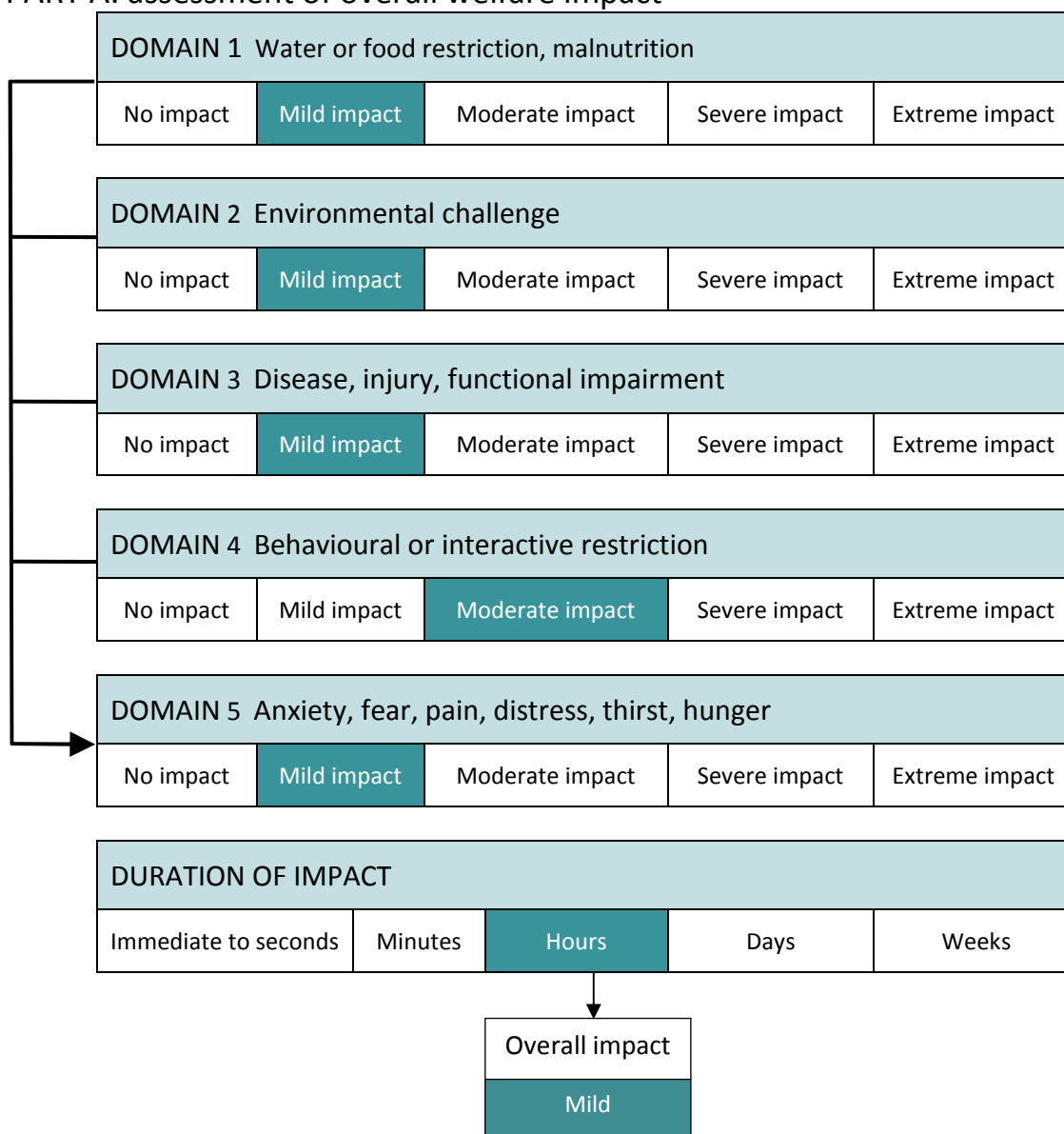


Control method: Cage trapping of feral cats followed by killing

Assumptions:

- Best practice is followed in accordance with CAT002.
- Traps are set in the evening and checked in the morning.
- Efforts are made to locate and kill any kittens if lactating queen is caught.
- The effect on dependant young is not taken into consideration with this assessment only the impact on the target animal
- Shooting is the usual method of euthanasia although lethal injection is sometimes used. With this assessment it is assumed that animals are shot or injected at site of capture. The impact will be significantly increased if animals are transported to another location for euthanasia – see separate assessment.
- Cage trapping is often used when cats are at high densities around human settlements e.g. around rubbish tips, camping grounds and less often when cat densities are low in areas away from human habitation.

PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact



SCORE FOR PART A:

4

Summary of evidence:	
Domain 1	Traps are set in the evening and checked in the morning. Food bait is provided but no water.
Domain 2	Assumes traps are not set in bad weather and are placed in shaded areas.
Domain 3	There is the potential for minor injuries to be sustained, usually self-inflicted abrasions to the face ^{1, 2} .
Domain 4	There will be some restraint stress but cats quickly recover from this if released. The physiological response to capture has been found to be lower in animals caught in cage traps compared with leg-hold traps ³ . In foxes, cage traps caused an increase in cortisol compared with animals that were not trapped but this was lower than individuals caught in leg-hold traps ⁴ . There will be some exertion from struggling within the trap; however this will be lower compared with animals held by leg-hold traps ⁴ . Long entrapment periods could result in disruption of natural behaviour and motivational systems ⁵ .
Domain 5	It is likely that the animal will experience an elevation in anxiety and distress whilst trapped, however evidence that animals can be recaptured may indicate that overall impact is not high or long-term ² .

PART B: assessment of mode of death – shooting (head shot)

Time to insensibility (minus any lag time)				
Very rapid	Minutes	Hours	Days	Weeks
Level of suffering (after application of the method that causes death but before insensibility)				
No suffering	Mild suffering	Moderate suffering	Severe suffering	Extreme suffering

PART B: assessment of mode of death – lethal injection

Time to insensibility (minus any lag time)				
Very rapid	Minutes	Hours	Days	Weeks
Level of suffering (after application of the method that causes death but before insensibility)				
No suffering	Mild suffering	Moderate suffering	Severe suffering	Extreme suffering

SCORE FOR PART B:	Shooting (head shot) - B
Summary of evidence:	
Duration –	With head shots, a properly placed shot will result in immediate insensibility ^{6,7,8}
Suffering –	The approach of a human to trapped cat will cause some distress ⁹ . A well-placed head shot which causes immediate insensibility should not cause any additional suffering.

SCORE FOR PART B:	Lethal injection - D
Summary of evidence:	
Duration –	The duration will start from approach of human followed by an intramuscular injection (IM) of sedative and/or anaesthetic agent with a pole syringe. Heavy sedation/loss of consciousness occurs approx. 15 minutes afterwards.
Suffering –	The approach of a human to trapped cat will cause some distress ⁹ . Also there will be some pain associated with the IM injection via the pole syringe. The animal is then not approached again until fully sedated or unconscious. An overdose of barbiturate administered by the intravenous, intraperitoneal or intracardiac routes should cause no suffering in an anaesthetised or heavily sedated cat ⁷ .

Summary

CONTROL METHOD:	Cage trapping of feral cats followed by killing
OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:	Cage trapping with shooting (head shot) – 4B Cage trapping with lethal injection – 4D
Comments	

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