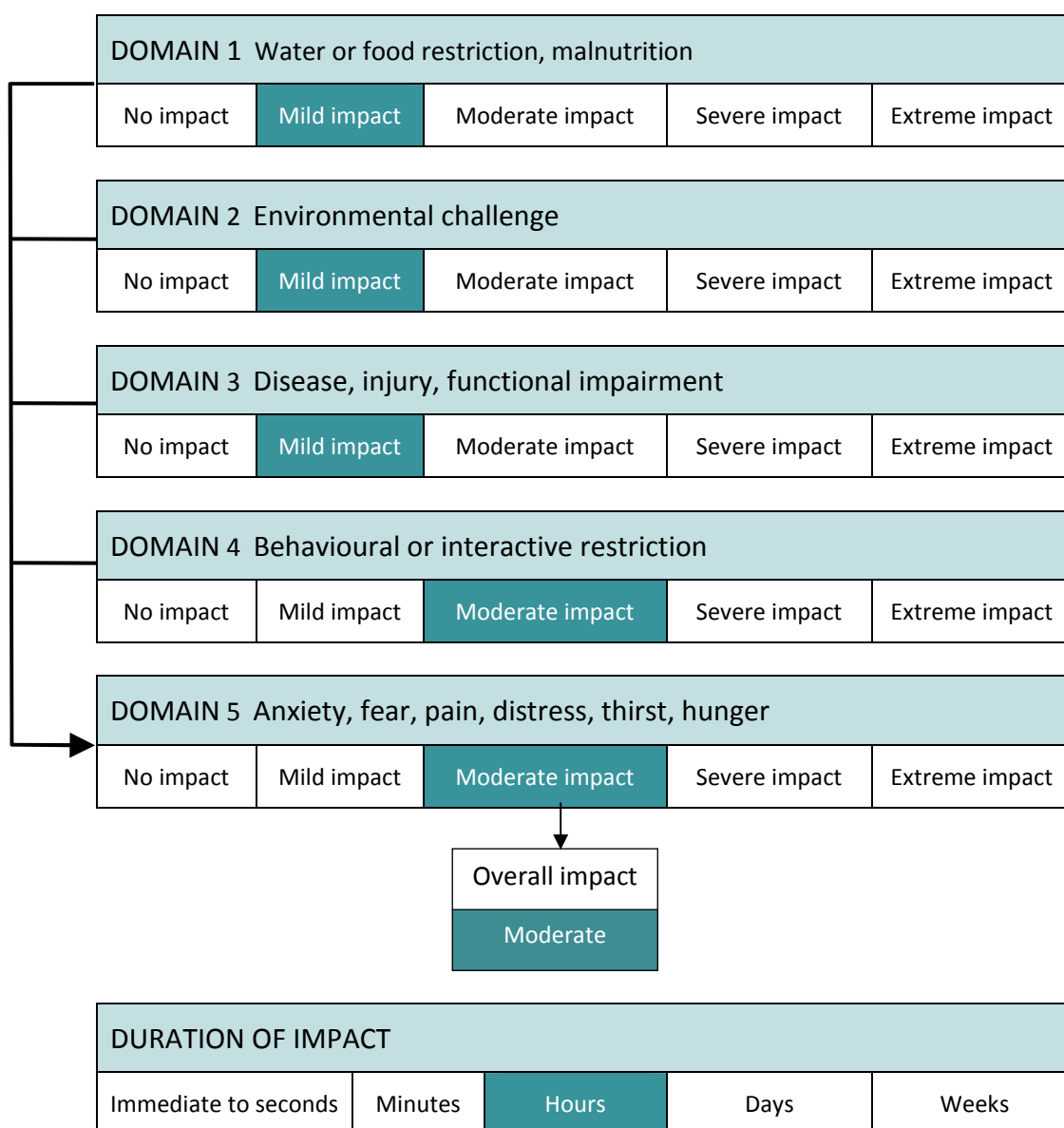


Control method: Trapping of feral cats using padded-jaw traps followed by shooting

Assumptions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Best practice is followed in accordance with CAT003. ▪ Traps are checked every 24 hours. Best practice states that traps are set in the evening and checked in the morning – but if the trap is empty they will often be left set and checked the next morning. ▪ Any kittens are dealt with according to the SOP. The effect on dependent young is not taken into consideration with this assessment only the impact on the target animal ▪ The assessment is very specific to the standard of traps considered, in this case Victor Soft-Catch trap no. 1½
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PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact – padded foothold traps (Victor Soft Catch #1½)



SCORE FOR PART A:	Padded foothold traps (e.g. Victor Soft Catch #1½) 5
Summary of evidence:	
Domain 1	Trapped cats will be without food/water for a period up to 24 hours.
Domain 2	Assumes that traps are not set in bad weather and are placed in shaded areas.
Domain 3	The majority of injuries are likely to be minor skin lacerations. Self-mutilation is not seen with cats. Leg fractures are not usually seen with these types of traps but dislocations can occur. Tooth and mouth injuries may also occur ^{1, 2, 3} .
Domain 4	In other species, physiological studies indicate that restraint by foot/leg-hold traps causes more stress than other capture techniques ⁴ . In foxes, cortisol levels were highest in animals trapped in leg-hold traps compared to cage traps and untrapped animals ^{5, 6} . There will also be periods of physical exertion from struggling against the trap especially during the first on 1-2 hours after capture ⁷ . Long entrapment periods could result in disruption of natural behaviour and motivational systems ⁸ .
Domain 5	The combination of psychological stress (anxiety, fear, frustration) from being restrained, pain from any injuries and exertion from struggling against the trap will have a significant impact on overall welfare ⁴ .

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

SCORE FOR PART B:	B
Summary of evidence:	
Duration –	With head shots, a properly placed shot will result in immediate insensibility ^{9,10,11}
Suffering –	The approach of a human to a trapped cat will cause some distress ¹² . A well-placed head shot which causes immediate insensibility should not cause any additional suffering.

Summary

CONTROL METHOD:	Trapping of feral cats using padded-jaw traps followed by shooting
OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:	5B
<p>Comments</p> <p>Although most trap-related injuries occur during the first one to two hours of capture, the degree of injury and stress sustained during restraint increases as the time held increases; therefore trap inspection periods should be at least once per day to conform to a minimum accepted standard.</p> <p>Note that an Australian trap standard is urgently required that includes specifications for trap size and jaw spread, trap weight, closure speed, impact force, clamping force, jaw offset distances, padding material (type, thickness) and pan tension¹³.</p>	

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