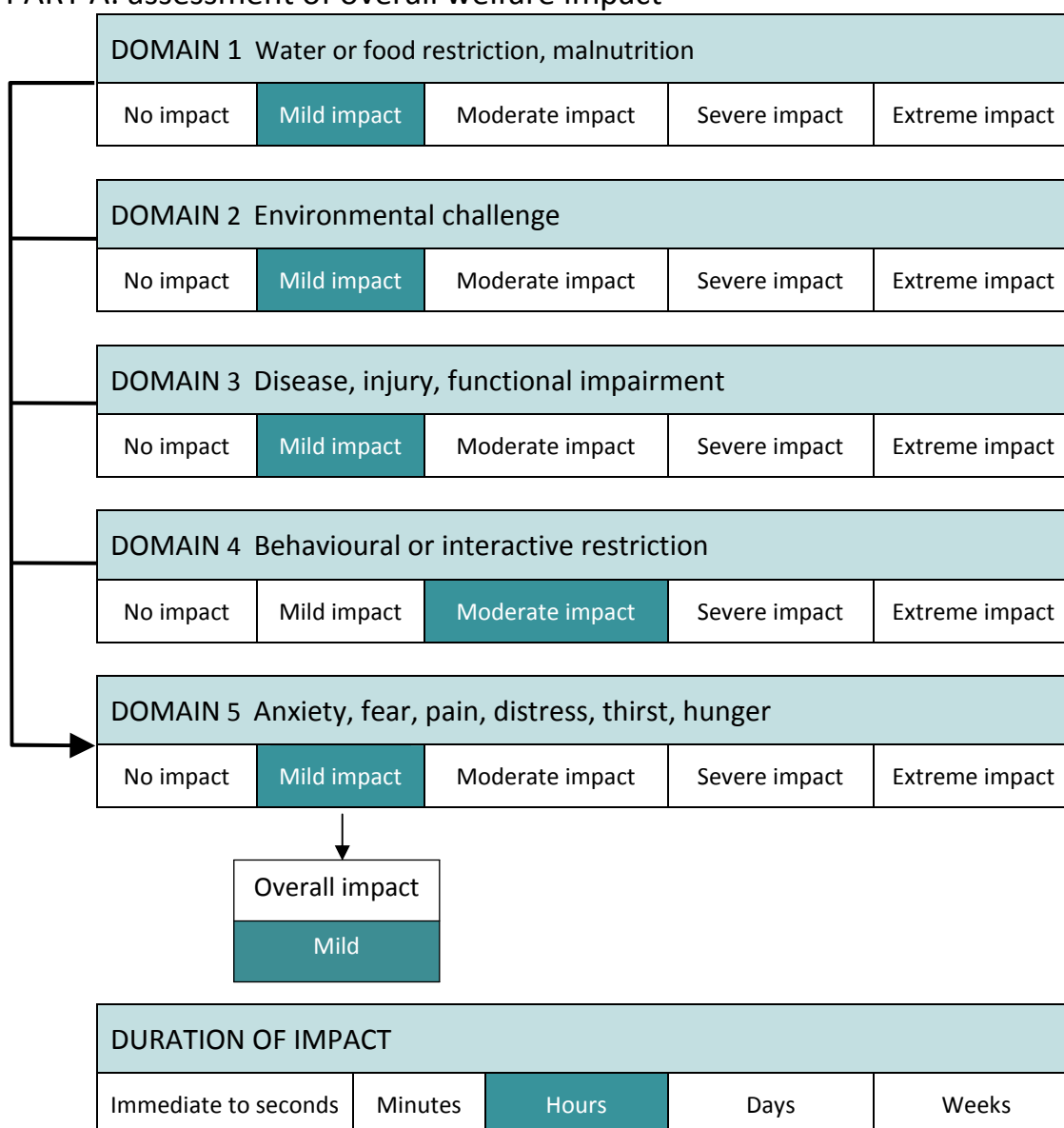


## Control method: Cage trapping of foxes followed by shooting

### Assumptions:

- Best practice is followed in accordance with the standard operating procedure FOX006.
- Usually used in an urban environment where other methods cannot be used.
- Shooting is the usual method of euthanasia. In some situations the cage will be transported to another location prior to shooting, therefore the impact will be significantly increased if this occurs.
- Best practice assumes traps are set in the evening and checked in the morning.
- Note that the effect on dependant young is not taken into consideration with this assessment, only the impact on the target animal. Assumes effort made to locate and kill any cubs if lactating vixen is caught.

### PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact



<b>SCORE FOR PART A:</b>	<b>4</b>
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. Foxes can lose teeth (uncommon) and or/get mouth injuries (common) <sup>1, 2</sup> or rub their noses causing superficial cuts.
Domain 4	There will be some restraint stress but foxes 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 <sup>3, 1</sup> . Cage traps have been found to cause an increase in cortisol compared with animals that were not trapped but this was lower than individuals caught in leg-hold traps <sup>4</sup> . There will be some exertion from struggling within the trap; however this will be lower compared with animals held by leg-hold traps <sup>4</sup> . Long entrapment periods could result in disruption of natural behaviour and motivational systems <sup>5</sup> .
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 <sup>6, 4</sup> .

### 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

<b>SCORE FOR PART B:</b>	<b>Shooting (head shot) - B</b>
Summary of evidence:	
Duration –	With head shots, a properly placed shot will result in immediate insensibility <sup>7,8,9</sup>
Suffering –	The approach of a human to trapped fox will cause some distress <sup>10</sup> . A well-placed head shot which causes immediate insensibility should not cause any additional suffering.

### Summary

<b>CONTROL METHOD:</b>	<b>Cage trapping of foxes followed by shooting</b>
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OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:

**4B**

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