

## Control method: Mustering of feral goats

### Assumptions:

- Best practice is followed in accordance with the standard operating procedure GOA003.
- This assessment applies from the beginning of contact with the herd to once they are contained in yards (i.e. up to the point of shutting the gate). It does not cover actions after arrival in yards such as separating different classes of goats, as these will vary depending on the fate of goats (e.g. transported for slaughter, shooting in yards).
- The assessment of the impact of mustering should not be considered in isolation from subsequent stages (i.e. the period held in yards, drafting, shooting or transporting). The cumulative effects of these stages will compound welfare impact. Assessments of these stages are beyond the scope of the current assessment.
- Aerial and ground mustering are often used in combination so they are considered together here.
- Mustering is completed within daylight hours and that feed and water is provided on completion of mustering according to the standard operating procedure.

### PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact

|  |             |                 |               |                |  |
|--|-------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| DOMAIN 1 Water or food restriction, malnutrition       |             |                 |               |                |  |
| No impact  | Mild impact | Moderate impact | Severe impact | Extreme impact |  |
| DOMAIN 2 Environmental challenge                       |             |                 |               |                |  |
| No impact  | Mild impact | Moderate impact | Severe impact | Extreme impact |  |
| DOMAIN 3 Disease, injury, functional impairment        |             |                 |               |                |  |
| No impact  | Mild impact | Moderate impact | Severe impact | Extreme impact |  |
| DOMAIN 4 Behavioural or interactive restriction        |             |                 |               |                |  |
| No impact  | Mild impact | Moderate impact | Severe impact | Extreme impact |  |
| DOMAIN 5 Anxiety, fear, pain, distress, thirst, hunger |             |                 |               |                |  |
| No impact  | Mild impact | Moderate impact | Severe impact | Extreme impact |  |
| ↓  |             |                 |               |                |  |
| Overall impact   |             |                 |               |                |  |
| Mild   |             |                 |               |                |  |
| DURATION OF IMPACT                                     |             |                 |               |                |  |
| Immediate to seconds                                   | Minutes     | Hours           | Days          | Weeks          |  |

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>SCORE FOR PART A:</b> | <b>4</b>  |
| Summary of evidence:     |   |
| <b>Domain 1</b>          | There is some opportunity to feed on the way. The goats are being moved along within their normal environment and range so resources are available to them as they would be in absence of mustering. Goats can mobilise fat quickly to release energy and can go without drinking for long periods.   |
| <b>Domain 2</b>          | As above. Within normal ranges. Goats are relatively tolerant of heat. They will also just stop moving if they get too hot whilst being mustered.   |
| <b>Domain 3</b>          | Assuming mustering is carried out without placing additional stress (i.e. the pace is appropriate) injuries are not likely to occur. Goats were considered to be less flighty than other species (e.g. horses, deer) so this unlikely to be a cause of increased injury.<br><br>There is the potential for injuries to occur, often from horns, once goats are in the yards.  |
| <b>Domain 4</b>          | Mixing of groups does not usually cause significant problems with goats compared to other species. If females continually break away and will not move along with group it is best to let her go and move on with rest of group as she may have a dependent kid hidden somewhere.<br><br>The most stressful stage of the procedure will be when goats are channelled into the yards.<br><br>Directing free roaming goats into a yard and then closing the gate will restrict some aspects of their behaviour. |
| <b>Domain 5</b>          | Assuming that impact is measured up to when the gates are shut, goats are likely to experience mild levels of apprehension, anxiety/fear as they are being driven into yards. Previous human contact would be limited.<br><br>If individuals are left behind they will be isolated from their usual social group, and are likely to experience distress until they find another group to associate with <sup>1</sup> .  |

**PART B: assessment of mode of death****Not performed – non-lethal method****Summary**

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>CONTROL METHOD:</b>  | <b>Mustering of feral goats</b> |
| <b>OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:</b>  | <b>4</b>                        |
| <b>Comments</b><br>Note that the score is less than trapping because the assessment for mustering ends at the 'gate shut' stage. To determine overall welfare impact it would be more realistic to also include the yarding period up to the beginning of the next stage (i.e. transport to another location or shooting). However the period of holding is likely to vary considerably so was not included in this assessment process. |                                 |

## Bibliography

1. Kannan, G., Terrill, T.H., Kouakou, B., Gelaye, S. & Amoah, E.A. (2002). Simulated preslaughter holding and isolation effects on stress responses and live weight shrinkage in meat goats. *Journal of Animal Science* **80**, 1771-1780