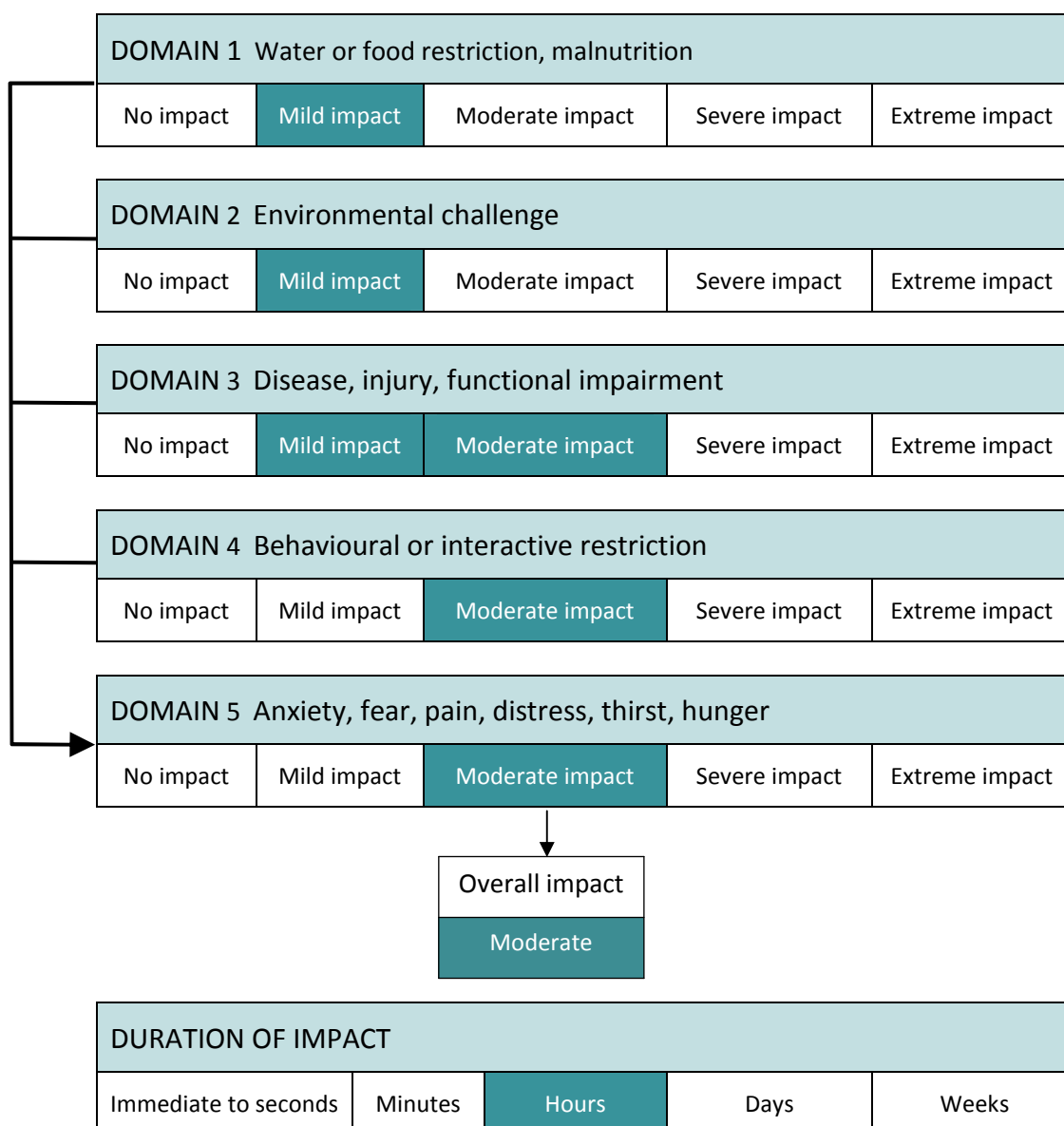


## Control method: Trapping of wild dogs using padded-jaw traps followed by killing

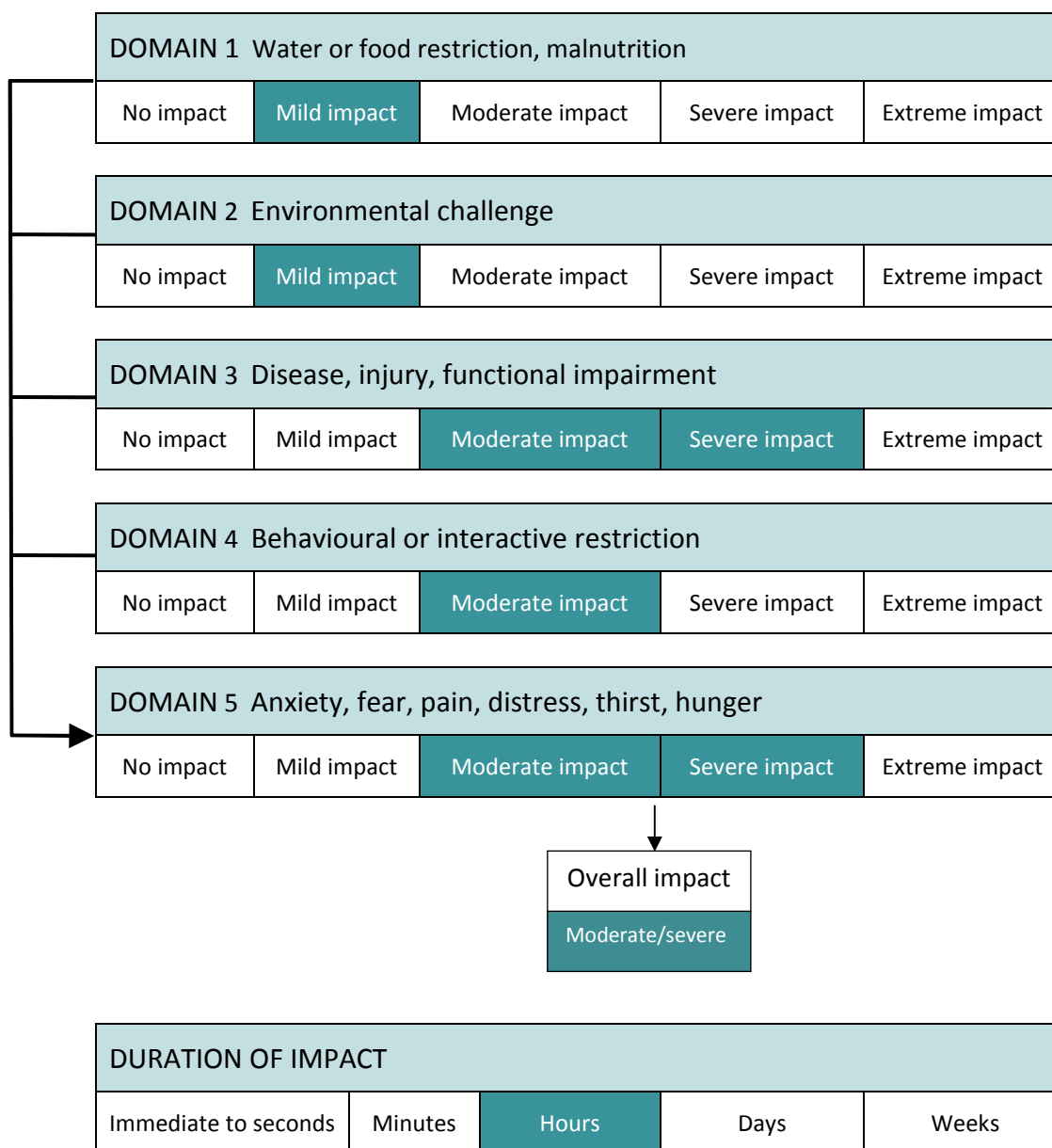
Assumptions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best practice is followed in accordance with the standard operating procedure DOG001.</li> <li>▪ Assumes that traps are checked every 24 hours. Best practice states that traps are set in the evening and checked in the morning – but if the trap is empty they will often be left set and checked the next morning.</li> <li>▪ This assessment is very specific to the standard of traps considered.</li> <li>▪ Note that the effect on dependent young is not taken into consideration with this assessment, only the impact on the target animal.</li> </ul>
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### PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact – padded foothold traps (e.g. Victor Soft Catch #3)



SCORE FOR PART A:	Padded foothold traps (e.g. Victor Soft Catch #3) 5
Summary of evidence:	
Domain 1	Trapped dogs 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 more likely with increasing time spent in the trap but is generally uncommon. Leg fractures are not usually seen with these types of traps but dislocations can occur. Tooth and mouth injuries may also occur <sup>1, 2, 3</sup> .
Domain 4	Physiological studies indicate that restraint by foot/leg-hold traps causes more stress than other capture techniques <sup>4</sup> . In foxes, cortisol levels were highest in animals trapped in leg-hold traps compared with cage traps and untrapped animals <sup>5, 6</sup> . There will also be periods of physical exertion from struggling against the trap especially during the first on 1-2 hours after capture <sup>7</sup> . Long entrapment periods could result in disruption of natural behaviour and motivational systems <sup>8</sup> .
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 <sup>4</sup> .

**PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact – padded leg-hold traps ('off-the-shelf' Padded Lanes Dingo trap)**



<b>SCORE FOR PART A:</b>	<b>Padded leghold traps ('off-the-shelf' Padded Lanes Dingo trap)</b> <b>5-6</b>
Summary of evidence:	
<b>Domain 1</b>	Trapped dogs will be without food/water for a period up to 24 hours.
<b>Domain 2</b>	Assumes that traps are not set in bad weather and are placed in shaded areas.

Domain 3	Although these traps are padded, they are substantially heavier and have a larger jaw spread than many of the contemporary foot-hold traps. Their weight and the tendency to catch animals higher on the leg have been implicated in increased incidence of fractures and amputations <sup>9</sup> . Tooth and mouth injuries also occur.
Domain 4	Physiological studies indicate that restraint by foot/leg-hold traps causes more stress than other capture techniques <sup>4</sup> . In foxes, cortisol levels were highest in animals trapped in leg-hold traps compared with cage traps and untrapped animals <sup>5, 6</sup> . There will also be periods of physical exertion from struggling against the trap especially during the first 1-2 hours after capture <sup>7</sup> . Long entrapment periods could result in disruption of natural behaviour and motivational systems <sup>8</sup> .
Domain 5	The combination of psychological stress (anxiety, fear, frustration) from being restrained, pain from injuries and exertion from struggling against the trap will have a significant impact on overall welfare <sup>4</sup> . Since these larger, heavier traps cause more significant injuries, the impact in this domain is higher than for the smaller foot-hold traps.

### 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>B</b>
Summary of evidence:	
Duration –	With head shots, a properly placed shot will result in immediate insensibility <sup>10,11,12</sup>
Suffering –	The approach of a human to trapped dog will cause some distress <sup>13</sup> . A well-placed head shot which causes immediate insensibility should not cause any additional suffering.

### PART B: assessment of mode of death - strychnine

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>G</b>
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Summary of evidence:	<b>Note:</b> The use of strychnine on traps applies only where traps cannot be checked daily. It is also important to note that not all trapped dogs will chew at the strychnine cloth; therefore if traps are not checked regularly, it is possible that dogs will be left to suffer for long periods of time.
Duration –	After ingestion of strychnine, in the majority of cases dogs die within 1 to 2 hours, however, death can take up to 24 hours or longer if the dose is low <sup>14</sup> . The use of a strychnine soaked cloth or powder on the trap jaw is likely to result in unpredictable dosage rates due to the varying amounts of strychnine on the trap jaws and variable uptake into the mouth of the dog.
Suffering –	Strychnine is considered an inhumane poison and its use has been banned in many countries including NZ and the UK. The signs of strychnine poisoning are described as follows:  “Early signs consist of apprehension, nervousness, tenseness, and stiffness. Severe tetanic seizures may appear spontaneously or may be initiated by stimuli such as touch, sound, or a sudden bright light. An extreme and overpowering extensor rigidity causes the animal to assume a ‘sawhorse’ stance. Hyperthermia due to stiffness and seizures is often present in dogs. The tetanic convulsions may last from a few seconds to around one minute. Respiration may stop momentarily. Intermittent periods of relaxation are seen during convulsions but become less frequent as the clinical course progresses. The mucous membranes become cyanotic, and the pupils dilated. Frequency of the seizures increases, and death eventually occurs from exhaustion or asphyxiation during seizures” <sup>15</sup> .

## Summary

<b>CONTROL METHOD:</b>	<b>Trapping of wild dogs using padded-jaw traps followed by killing</b>
<b>OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE:</b>	<b>Padded foot-hold trap with shooting – 5B</b> <b>Padded foot-hold trap with strychnine – 5G</b> <b>Padded leg-hold trap with shooting – 5-6B</b> <b>Padded leg-hold trap with strychnine – 5-6G</b>
<b>Comments</b> Although most trap-related injuries occur during the first one to two hours of capture, the degree of injury from self-mutilation 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.  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 tension <sup>9</sup> .  There is an urgent need to replace the use of strychnine on traps with a more humane method (i.e. Lethal Trap Device (LTD) with a toxin such as cyanide, PAPP or 1080).	

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