SHOULD ANIMAL WELFARE FIGURE IN OUR CONTROL PROGRAMMES?

- "Pain and distress cannot be evaluated easily in animals and therefore it must be assumed that animals experience these in a manner similar to humans unless there is evidence to the contrary.

  Decisions regarding the animals' welfare must be based on this assumption".

  Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

- WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ANIMAL WELFARE??

- ANIMAL WELFARE – an animals quality of life based on an assessment of its <u>physical</u> and <u>psychological</u> state as an indication of how it is coping with the ongoing situation as well as a <u>judgment</u> about how the animal feels.

  - Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

- Animal welfare <u>is</u> about judgment

- There are differences of opinion within the organization and

- There is always a concern about how predator control is seen by people outside the organization.

  Therefore we need to be confident about what we are doing!

CURRENT METHODS USED BY MWF

- BOX TRAP (Cats and Mongoose) – Live trapping and then killing.

- RATS - Poisoning and snap traps.

  Is there a better way?

1

- THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED HUMANE METHODS OF KILLING ANIMALS

- CHEMICAL INHALANTS – Chloroform
- INJECTABLE – Overdose of an anaesthetic agent
- PHYSICAL METHOD 1 – Gunshot
            2 - Live trapping and kill bag

- Death without signs of panic, pain and distress
- Minimum time to loss of consciousness.
- Reliability and reproducibility.
- Simple relatively maintenance free mechanical equipment.

- Minimal environmental impact through contamination.

- Minimal emotional effects on observer and operator.

- Safety for operators and observers.