

# Indian Myna Control

Tweed Shire Council

## PROTOCOL ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRAP MANAGEMENT

Community members who participate in trapping are required to commit to the following animal welfare and trap management and care protocol.

### When trapping

- You must position the trap so that there is adequate shade for the trapped birds. The containment cage of the trap **must contain food and clean water at all times.**
- Trappers are not to use grain-based food (including bread) in this trap as this can attract native birds.
- If a native bird is trapped it should be released as soon as possible.
- The birds are not to be exposed to undue stress while trapped — avoid manhandling or approaching the traps too frequently.
- The traps are to be monitored regularly -at least every morning and evening.

### Dealing with trapped birds

The trapped birds are treated in a humane and responsible manner. It is a condition of borrowing this trap that you observe the requirements of the NSW *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.*

The method of euthanasia to dispose of trapped birds is to be **quick and painless, and as stress-free as possible.** There are two methods of euthanasia that this program endorses for use by community members. These are: gassing with carbon dioxide gas, NOT carbon monoxide as in a car exhaust; or cervical dislocation (breaking their necks). Both of these methods require experience and or training.

If you feel that you are unable to euthanase the birds, you can take the birds to one of the Vets listed below. This service is only available during normal business hours. **Please call the clinic prior to delivering the birds.**

- King Street Veterinary Hospital, 6 King St, Murwillumbah. Ph. (02) 6672 4322
- Mullumbimby Veterinary Hospital, 124 Dalley Street. Ph. (02) 6684 3818
- Byron Bay Veterinary Clinic, 1/70 Centennial Circuit. Ph. (02) 6685 6899

### Care of decoy birds

Decoy birds should be managed in accordance with the guidelines on the reverse side of this sheet.

### Trap management and care

- It is the responsibility of the persons borrowing this trap to return it to one of Council's offices, and to alert the program manager that this has occurred.
- It is the responsibility of the persons borrowing this trap to ensure that the trap is returned to Council **clean** and in good working condition or to bear the costs associated with returning the trap to good working condition or its replacement.

I (*print name*).....commit to act in accordance with all of the above protocols.

Trap number \_\_\_\_\_ Carry Cage (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Use and care of trapped Indian Mynas as Decoy Birds

This project has been trialing the use of decoy birds in traps at a number of trapping sites. Decoy birds are live Indian Mynas that are retained in the containment chamber of the trap when the trap is set. The decoy birds (also referred to as Lure Birds or Judas Birds) call the target Indian Mynas down to the trap, then the bait guides them to the entrance tunnels and into the trap.

We have found that the use of decoy birds can significantly reduce the amount of time needed to trap Indian Mynas at a site and, if retained in the trap over the trapping period, can also significantly increase the number of Indian Mynas trapped at a site.

Another advantage of using decoy birds is that it can enable people that do not have Indian Mynas visiting their property, but who have seen them on properties that are close by, to successfully lure the birds over to their own property and then to catch them.

### Welfare of decoy birds

The ongoing welfare of the decoy birds is of the utmost importance and they must be cared for in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure for Trapping Pest Birds prepared by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (now part of the Department of Industry and Investment).

The above document states that if decoy birds are used when trapping they must be provided with suitable and adequate food, water and shelter, and that they must not be subjected to undue stress. The lure birds/s must be removed when the trap is not in use and traps containing lure birds must be inspected daily.

Decoy birds can be deliberately introduced to the containment chamber when the trap is first introduced to a site, or it can be trapped from the local population using the techniques outlined in the 'Guide to using Pee Gees Indian Myna and Common Starling Trap'.

### Care of decoy birds

Undertake your daily care of decoy birds when you bait your trap. Visiting the trap only once each 24 hours will reduce the stress on the decoy birds.

Make sure that your trap is providing adequate shade for your decoy birds during the hot part of the day and protection from inclement weather.

The decoy birds should be provided with a clean living environment. The trap should be moved each morning or evening, to provide the birds with a clean floor. The trap should also be hosed out when necessary.

The birds should be provided with clean water. Ensure that their water container/s are cleaned and replenished each morning or evening.

The birds should be provided with adequate and suitable food. Their diet should include:

- a mixture of soaked and dry dog biscuits;
- some fresh mince at least every few days; and
- fresh fruit. They generally prefer cut up banana and grapes, however this preference can vary from flock to flock. If they are not eating the fruit you provide them with, try cutting it into smaller portions and/or a different fruit.

The amount of food needed by the birds will vary depending on the number you have in the cage. The best measure is to observe how much they are eating. If they are getting enough, there will be a small amount left at the end of the day. If all the food is gone at the end of the day, provide them with more. If they are leaving excessive amounts, cut it back a bit.

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