

# CANE TOADS (INCLUDING DISSECTION)

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Approved 27 August 2014

Approval to conduct activities under this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is conditional upon pedagogical justification for this use of animals being documented by the activity leader.  
 Schools may undertake the approved activities outlined in this SOP once authorised to do so by the Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee (QSAEC) Animal Ethics Officer.

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## SECTION 1 | OBLIGATIONS

Schools have legal obligations under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (Qld), the *Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012* (Qld), and the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (Cwlth) 8<sup>th</sup> Edition 2013, including:

- 1) ensuring persons in charge of an animal fulfil their duty of care to that animal
- 2) obtaining animal ethics approval prior to conducting scientific activities involving animals and acting in accordance with that approval once granted
- 3) reporting on the use of animals for scientific purposes.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS LEGISLATION MAY RESULT IN SCHOOLS RECEIVING A MAXIMUM FINE OF 300 PENALTY UNITS. (PENALTY UNIT VALUE IS NOTIFIED IN THE *PENALTIES AND SENTENCES REGULATION 2005*).

### DUTY OF CARE FOR ANIMALS

If you are in charge of an animal, you have a duty of care to that animal - no matter why you are in charge of it, what you are using it for or how long it will be in your care. All decisions and actions involving the care and use of animals for scientific purposes must be underpinned by respect for animals. This respect is demonstrated by:

- using animals only when justified
- supporting the wellbeing of the animals involved
- avoiding or minimising harm, including pain and distress, to those animals
- applying high standards of scientific integrity
- applying the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3Rs) at all stages of animal care and use through:
  - **replacement** of animals with other methods (alternatives)
  - **reduction** in numbers of animals used
  - **refinement** of techniques used, in order to minimise adverse impacts on animals
- knowing and accepting one's responsibilities.

### PEDAGOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF ANIMALS IN EDUCATION

It is the teacher's responsibility to provide a pedagogical justification for any learning activity that involves the use of animals, including activities approved under a SOP. The use of animals must provide an added component to the learning that is neither trivial nor available in other ways, and there must be evidence to support this position.

**Planning documents should clearly identify how the use of animals is essential to achieving the learning objectives.** The justification should consider the impact on the animal/s involved and must balance whether the potential effects on the wellbeing of the animals are justified by the potential benefits.

The QSAEC, when undertaking a site visit at the school, may request to see documentation detailing the pedagogical justification for the use of animals.

If there are viable alternatives to animal use that meet the learning objectives, they should be used in preference to using animals. At all times the impact on the animal/s should be considered and, where appropriate, discussed with the students in an age-appropriate way.

Activities outside the scope of this SOP **must be considered by QSAEC before approval can be granted.** To seek approval to conduct activities additional to those approved under this SOP or to modify an activity approved in this SOP, you will need to submit a Modification, SOP Variation or Amendment form in conjunction with the Activity Notification Form at the last page of this SOP.

**Please note:** The QSAEC will **not** approve any activities classified as Category 4 in the *Categories of animal use for scientific purposes in Queensland schools*.

### ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

*Responsibilities of School Personnel under the Code* details obligations of staff under animal welfare legislation to promote the responsible care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

An **unexpected adverse event** is any event that may have a negative impact on the wellbeing of an animal and was not foreshadowed in the approved proposal, SOP or subsequent documents to QSAEC.

An unexpected adverse event may result from different causes, and includes but is not limited to:

- death of an animal, or group of animals, that was not expected (e.g. during surgery or anaesthesia, or after a procedure or treatment)
- adverse effects following a procedure or treatment that were not expected
- adverse effects in a larger number of animals than predicted during the planning of the project or activity, based on the number of animals actually used, not the number approved for the study
- a greater level of pain or distress than was predicted during the planning of the project or activity
- power failures, inclement weather, emergency situations or other factors external to the project or activity that have a negative impact on the welfare of the animals.

In the event of an unexpected adverse event or emergency, prompt action must be taken to address any adverse impacts on the animal/s. Alleviating unanticipated pain and distress must take precedence over an individual animal reaching the planned endpoint of the project, or the continuation or completion of the project. Emergency treatment may be required and, if necessary, animals must be humanely killed without delay.

In response to an unexpected adverse event, action and investigation by the activity lead or facility manager is required to ensure students, staff or other animals are not inadvertently affected. The specific response will depend on the animal and the circumstances. It may require seeking advice from a veterinarian to determine the best course of action (e.g. necropsy of the dead animal by the vet), removal of the deceased animal (e.g. by the supplier), or diagnostic investigations of facility or management practices to determine cause of death (e.g. water testing of fish tank, checking of ventilation).

The QSAEC should be notified within 7 days of the event, using an [Unexpected Adverse Event Form](#).

Please note: Necropsy of a dead animal is not an approved activity under this SOP due to potential health and biosecurity risks, and must only be performed by a competent person. QSAEC recommends that if a necropsy is required it is performed by a vet.

Further advice about reporting unexpected adverse events is available on the [Department of Agriculture and Fisheries \(DAF\) website](#).

## STUDENT AND STAFF HEALTH

Those involved in the care and use of animals should make themselves aware of the potential disease hazards and other associated occupational health and safety issues, and manage risks according to the school's risk management process. Apart from injuries which may occur due to [handling animals](#), there are a variety of infectious diseases (zoonoses) that are transmissible from various animals to humans.

Zoonotic diseases are common and the illnesses they cause can be serious. They can be spread by direct contact with animals, for example via bites or scratches, or through contact with animal faeces, bodily fluids, airborne particles, birth products, or enclosures contaminated with these materials.

Staff should familiarise themselves with the zoonoses the animals in their care may potentially transmit, the routes of transmission and what activities may potentially expose staff or students to infection. This research will inform the risk assessment to determine how to manage these risks or determine whether the activity should be conducted at all.

For comprehensive advice regarding zoonotic diseases and precautionary measures to minimise risks to staff and students, refer to [Handling Live Animals in a School Setting](#), [Animal contact guidelines - reducing the risk to human health 2014 \(Interim\)](#) and [Preventing Zoonoses](#).

[Risk management](#) of animal activities ensures the health, safety and well-being of students, staff and others involved. If a specific [Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment Guideline](#) exists, that guideline must be adhered to at a minimum. Risks associated with [zoonotic diseases](#) carried by cane toads must be identified and measures planned to allow activities to be conducted with an acceptable level of residual risk.

Any incident or injury that occurs in association with an activity must be reported, recorded and notified in accordance with [Health and Safety Incident Recording, Notification and Management](#).

## SECTION 2 | QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Any teacher conducting scientific animal activity must have:

- a relevant science or science education qualification (e.g. Agricultural Science, Biological Science), or
- relevant science or science education experience as deemed appropriate by the school principal (generally 2 years' experience), and
- competency in the particular procedure.

For new or inexperienced teachers (less than two years' experience), all activities must be conducted under the supervision of a Science or Agricultural Science Head of Department (HOD) or suitably experienced person.

Where direct supervision of a suitably experienced person is not available, a new or inexperienced teacher must:

- identify a mentor, maybe a Science or Agriculture HOD from a neighbouring school, and
- provide planning documents to the mentor

Persons deemed to be suitably qualified must have:

- conducted risk assessments on the procedure/s to be carried out
- found the procedure/s to be safe and humane considering animal and student welfare, and
- considered the maturity and suitability of the student/s involved in the activity.

Teachers should ensure that animal users, including students and visitors, are provided with adequate prior instruction in specific activities to enable appropriate care of an animal and to minimise risk of undue stress or harm to an animal.

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## SECTION 3 | ANIMAL INFORMATION

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### IS IT A FROG OR A TOAD?

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Schools should be aware that native frog eggs and tadpoles are protected in Queensland and that the taking, moving, keeping or dealing are prohibited without a permit.

It is very difficult to identify juvenile frogs and tadpoles from juvenile toads and tadpoles, however this information might help.

If you are able to identify juvenile frogs from juvenile toads, separate them. All frogs must be returned to the site they came from. Toads, both juveniles and adults, should be removed from the site, humanely euthanased and disposed of.

If you are unable to absolutely differentiate frogs from toads, return all the amphibians to the site they came from.

The taking of frogs by schools for educational purposes is not encouraged. Schools that seek to take tadpoles to place them in an aquarium to observe metamorphosis should preferably obtain tadpoles from a pond, natural or constructed, on their school site. These animals must be released within 7 days of metamorphosis back to the place they were originally taken from.

Movement of frogs and tadpoles may pose a risk to the environment, specifically when translocating animals.

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### PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF CANE TOADS

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The cane toad, *Bufo marinus*, was introduced into Australia in 1935 to control cane beetles. This release, a failed attempt at biological control, has created a serious pest species that has multiplied in plague proportions and now toads are found throughout much of Queensland.

Toads poison water bodies and native species' habitats. They are extremely toxic creatures and should be handled with great care.

**Please Note:** Children should not be encouraged to handle toads. Gloves and eye protection are essential because squeezed toads can squirt a toxic substance from glands at the back of their head. If this substance goes directly into eyes, or eyes are rubbed with a hand or arm that has the venom on it, then blindness or serious eye conditions may result. It is very important that hands and arms are thoroughly washed with soap after working with toads.

Toads can grow to 200mm in length and become very large. They have an upright stance and prefer tracks, roads and low grasslands because they have limited ability to jump.

The back of a toad is pale brown in colour with dark brown blotches and many large warts. There are prominent parotoid glands behind the eyes and immediately above and behind the eardrums. The protruding eyes have thick warty eyelids. The underbody of a toad is granular with a cream surface and brown specks and flecks. The toad's fingers are unwebbed and the toes are fully webbed.

Toad spawn is easily identified as it consists of masses of eggs in long colourless jelly-like chains. A female toad can lay 35,000 eggs in one season.

Toad tadpoles are small black tadpoles with globular bodies and pointy snouts. They swim and feed in schools. A tadpole's life lasts approximately 12 weeks.

More information can be found on [the DAF website](#).

No animals or plants are to be taken from National Parks (Section 153 Queensland Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006)

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### HANDLING TOADS IN CLASSROOMS

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Cane toads may be kept without a licence or permit. However, it is illegal to release a non-native animal to the wild.

Students are not encouraged to handle cane toads. Careful instruction needs to be given to students if they are asked to handle toads.

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### ENVIRONMENT

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**SPACE** Glass aquaria are ideal cages for toads. The space required depends on the size and number of toads. In general, the kind of environment set up should mirror the habitat of the species.

**TEMPERATURE** Only tropical species require some extra warmth (best provided by a light globe).

**NOTE:** overheating will kill most.

**LIGHT** Natural daylight (filtered) is adequate.

**VENTILATION** Any (non-rusting) fly wire is adequate.

**SHELTER** Moistened but not wet, 10cm of sand, soil and leaf litter. Rocks, bark and hollow branches, plastic tubing, plastic matting and stainless steel boxes in which to hide may be useful. Plants and other vegetation can enrich the environment. The cage should be clean at all times.

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## FOOD REQUIREMENTS

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**TYPE** Most toads will feed only on living prey such as worms and insects. Dried fish food and/or boiled lettuce are ideal for tadpoles. Toads require a variety of insects and invertebrates as monotonous diets can cause dietary deficiencies, e.g. too many meal worms.

**QUANTITY** An adequate food supply for one or two toads can be caught by hand but larger numbers of toads may require food to be bred or caught using traps. Mealworms, blowflies, fruit flies and crickets are easy to breed. Tadpoles have to be given excess food, as lack of food may result in cannibalism.

**WATER** The cage should be sprayed regularly with water, e.g. fine garden spray gun, to ensure that both the cage and toads are always moist. A plastic, glass or earthenware dish should be sunk into the soil with its lip at ground level and water replaced as often as necessary to keep it fresh.

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## SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

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Diligence in observation of live animals does not alter on weekends and holidays. Staff members need to be rostered to maintain observation schedule as per weekdays.

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## ANIMAL EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

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The school must have an emergency management plan to deal with events in and out of school hours. Details of the plan will vary according to the needs of each school and must include:

- monitoring of animals, including on weekends and school holidays
  - a first aid kit for animals
  - at least one local veterinarian on call
  - a list of who is competent to euthanase animals if necessary (this is likely to be the local veterinarian but may also be an Agricultural Science HOD/TIC or Agricultural Assistant who has experience with the breed)
  - a schedule of persons authorised to respond to emergencies and engage veterinary assistance.
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## EUTHANASIA

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To ensure complete euthanasing of toads, it is important to plan for the collection and delivery.

The QSAEC recommends that euthanasia is conducted at the school, using one of the methods described below. Toads must be handled and euthanased quickly and efficiently by a competent operator.

These methods must only be undertaken by a properly trained member of the school staff. Refer to the *Methods for the field euthanasia of cane toads* for detailed instructions. For information on specific health and safety considerations for operators refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), available from the supplier.

### METHOD 1: GASSING WITH CARBON DIOXIDE FOR MORE THAN 4 HOURS

Carbon dioxide is predominately used for large scale culls of cane toads. It involves capture of cane toads that are then placed into garbage bags that are filled with carbon dioxide.

Euthanasing the cane toad:

- The carbon dioxide concentration must be greater than 90%
- Cane toads are to be exposed to the carbon dioxide for a minimum of 4 hours
- The maximum number of toads per bag (approx. 56 L capacity) is 20
- A warming coil and/or plastic tube should be used to pre-warm the carbon dioxide
- Cane toads must be confirmed as dead prior to conducting the activity.

Carbon dioxide must be obtained from a reputable source such as a local gas company or laboratory supplier.

### METHOD 2: HOPSTOP® TO EUTHANASE THE CANE TOAD

Hopstop® is an aerosol spray that is commercially available e.g. from hardware stores. This method of euthanasia is acceptable when:

- the toad is treated with sufficient spray to anaesthetise and then kill it quickly and effectively, therefore two sprays on the back of the animal is recommended. Limiting the spray to the back of the toad should ensure that the animal is suitable for the purposes of dissection.
- toads are confirmed as dead prior to dissection.

Euthanasing the cane toad:

- the cane toad must be held in a container prior to administering the HopStop®
- administer the HopStop® according to the manufacturer's directions
- leave the toad undisturbed until it dies

- all toads must be confirmed as dead prior to dissection.

#### CONFIRMATION OF DEATH

A number of criteria must be met before confirming that the toad is dead.-

- loss of righting reflex – the toad will not right itself onto its ventral surface when turned onto its back;
- loss of withdrawal reflex - there will be no response to a light squeeze to the skin in-between the digits;
- loss of deep pain reflex – there will be no response to moderate pressure applied to a digit bone;
- absence of respiratory movement - cessation of the throat movements that indicate breathing;
- absence of heart contractions – cessation of heart beat as determined by observing the chest for a visual cardiac impulse beneath the skin, and/or by palpation of the chest and/or by listening with a stethoscope.

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#### DISPOSAL

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Carcases must be disposed of in accordance with local council regulations.

## SECTION 4 | APPROVED ACTIVITIES

All activities must be conducted in line with industry and veterinary standards. Chemicals and drugs used must be judged to be required by a qualified instructor, must be registered products, and must be used in accordance with Materials Safety Data Sheet information and manufacturer's instructions.

### 1. CAPTURE, RESTRAINT AND HANDLING

| Category 3 – moderate impact    |   |  |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Activity                        | Objective   | Alternatives                               | Ratios  | References                                       |
| Capture, restraint and handling | To instruct students in the procedures for capturing, restraining and handling cane toads | Use of videos and role plays is encouraged | <b>Instructors : Students</b><br>1:30 instructing<br>1:30 supervising<br><b>Students : Animals</b><br>3:1 observing<br>1:1 performing | <u>Section 3.3, Handling toads in classrooms</u> |

Students, parents and carers are instructed and provided with take home information on safe collection, care and transport.

**IDENTIFICATION** Students must be instructed not to collect any toad that appears sick or injured or whose behaviour is unusual. Any toads with missing body parts, signs of disease or infection or severe distress will be euthanased and disposed of through the routine laboratory disposal system. Students must check toads morning and night.

**CAPTURE** Students must be instructed in safe, humane collection and care including correct handling, housing, moisture and warmth, for example, a 2-litre sized ice cream container with a lid containing air-holes. Students may collect toads on an arranged night. A net is an ideal method for capture.

**HANDLING** When collected, they should be held in cupped hands and not squeezed. Handling should be minimised and gloves or plastic bags should be worn over hands.

**HOUSING AT HOME** If kept overnight, they should be kept in a suitable moist and warm ventilated container for a period of less than 18 hours.

**HOUSING AT SCHOOL** If kept at school, they should be in a suitable moist and warm ventilated container for a period of less than 8 hours.

#### COLLECTING THE CANE TOAD

Have all necessary equipment ready before handling the toad – gloves, plastic bag, and plastic container with lid. Label the container with CANE TOAD.

Always wear gloves when handling toads – either thick rubber gloves or gardening gloves.

Pick the toad up firmly, preferably with your hand over its back, and place it in the plastic bag and secure the top.

Place the bag and toad into the plastic container and put the lid on. If kept overnight, they should be kept in a suitable moist and warm ventilated container for a period of less than 18 hours.

**POISON** Salmonella is a zoonotic disease that may be carried by frogs and toads (Taylor et al., 2000). The risk of student infection is assessed as low. Students and staff will wear disposable gloves and use mild disinfectant during the dissection procedure.

Cane toads can secrete poison from two large glands on the back of the neck, even squirting it a short distance if firmly hit or squeezed. The poison can cause severe skin and eye irritation and should be washed off with water immediately if contact occurs. Medical attention should be sought if necessary. To minimise poisoning risk, staff and students should handle toads gently, using gloves or plastic bags. Hands must be washed after handling and dissection. Safety glasses may be required for this activity.

**TRANSPORT** Live captured toads may be transported to school the next morning for euthanasia.

Home euthanasing of toads is not recommended by the QSAEC.  
Please refer to Section 3.8, Euthanasia.

### 2. ROUTINE HOUSING

| Category 3 – moderate impact |  |   |  |            |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|------------|
| Activity                     | Objective  | Alternatives                                      | Ratios   | References |
| Routine housing              | To instruct students in routine housing requirements | Video, learning guides or booklets are encouraged | <b>Instructors : Students</b><br>1:30 instructing<br><b>Students : Animals</b><br>1:1 performing |            |

**AT HOME** Toads are kept in suitable moist warm and ventilated containers for a period of less than 18 hours.

AT SCHOOL Toads are kept in suitable moist warm and ventilated containers for a period of less than 8 hours. TEACHERS advise students on suitable container type (e.g. 2-litre sized clean ice cream container with a lid containing air holes).

### 3. EUTHANASIA

| Category 3 – high impact |  |   |   |                                  |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Activity                 | Objective  | Alternatives                              | Ratios  | References                       |
| Euthanasia               | To instruct students in the appropriate method of euthanasia of cane toads | Videos and learning guides are encouraged | <b>Instructors : Students</b><br>1:30 instructing<br>1:1 supervising<br><b>Students : Animals</b><br>30:1 observing<br>2:1 performing | <u>Section 3</u> ,<br>Euthanasia |

To ensure complete euthanasing of toads, it is important to plan for the collection and delivery of the toads. The QSAEC recommends that euthanasia is conducted at the school, using one of the methods described in Section 3, Euthanasia. Toads must be handled and euthanased quickly and efficiently by a competent operator using either of the methods described in Section 3.

**CONFIRMATION OF DEATH** Refer to Section 3 for criteria to be met before confirming that the toad is dead.

### 4. DISSECTION AND DISPOSAL

| Category 3 – moderate impact |  |  |   |  |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Activity                     | Objective  | Alternatives   | Ratios  | References                                   |
| Dissection and disposal      | To instruct students in the dissection of cane toads | Video, learning guides or booklets and role playing are encouraged | <b>Instructors : Students</b><br>1:30 instructing<br>1:3 supervising<br><b>Students : Animals</b><br>30:1 observing<br>3:1 performing | Procedure to be conducted as detailed below. |

The decision to demonstrate or have students participate in a toad dissection will be at the discretion of the teacher, in line with the relevant year level curriculum and the school's curriculum plan. The procedure below must be used when completing a toad dissection with students.

Once death of the toad is confirmed, it is placed on its back and pinned to the dissection board through its feet. Incisions and pinning of the skin layer is completed and cuts are made through the abdominal wall.

Significant organs of the digestive system, respiratory and circulatory systems are identified. These observations of positioning are then sketched.

#### TOAD DISSECTION PROCEDURE

Begin the dissection by placing the toad on its back and pinning it to the board through its feet.

Make the necessary incision/s and pin back the skin layer to the right and the left side of the toad.

Cut through the abdominal wall and pin out the flaps of the abdominal wall on either side.

#### INTERNAL INSPECTION

Identify the significant organs of the digestive system and trace the pathway linking these organs. Note observations and sketch the relative positions of these organs.

Identify the significant organs of the respiratory system and trace the pathway linking these organs. Note observations and sketch the relative positions of these organs.

Identify the significant organs of the circulatory system and trace the pathway linking these organs. Note observations and sketch the relative positions of these organs.

#### DISPOSAL

Upon completion of a dissection activity, all toads and tissue are placed into a plastic bag which are then sealed and stored in a freezer, until disposal in the garbage disposal system or medical disposal system within the school site.



## SECTION 5 | GLOSSARY

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Alternatives to animal use | Replacement of animals with other methods/activities for educative purposes must be sought and used whenever possible                                       |
| DAF                        | Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  |
| QSAEC                      | Queensland Schools Animal Ethics Committee  |
| Ratios                     | Instructor/student and student/animal ratios stated in this document are minimum requirements.  |
| Supervision                | Supervision in all instances means supervision by a suitably qualified person familiar with the procedures as well as normal and abnormal animal responses. |
| The Code                   | <i>Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes</i> 8 <sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013  |

## APPENDIX A | SUGGESTED LETTER TO PARENTS/CARERS

### Attach an information sheet on collection and handling of toads.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for agreeing to assist in the collection of cane toads for

.....  
(insert details of class and activity)

for the period ..... to .....  
(commencement date) (end date)

This letter is to advise you of your responsibilities. According to Queensland law, the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)*, a person in charge of an animal has a duty of care to that animal and must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the animal's needs are provided for as follows:

1. Provision of food and water
2. Provision of appropriate accommodation or living conditions
3. Freedom to express normal behaviour
4. Treatment of disease or injury
5. Appropriate handling of the animal to avoid causing fear and distress.

These provisions apply to all animals, including pest species such as toads.

Prior to asking for your assistance in this activity, the school must ensure that the animal will be responsibly cared for by a person competent to do so. Once the toads are captured, it is your responsibility to ensure that these needs (based on the internationally recognised 'Five Freedoms' of animal welfare, mentioned above) are upheld as a matter of your duty of care obligation.

Please ensure that you are provided with all necessary care information, equipment, food and other requirements prior to accepting duty of care responsibility for this activity. Should an after hours emergency arise (such as the need for veterinary care) during the time that you are caring for the animal, please contact:

..... on telephone number ..... for advice.  
(Insert here the name and contact telephone number of school staff member, after hours veterinary clinic or experienced animal carer with which the school has made prior arrangements.)

Please ensure that when the toad/s is/are taken to school they are safely and directly handed over to the class teacher or other staff member who is responsible for this activity.

To accept responsibility for the abovementioned animal, please sign and return to the school the section below.

Yours faithfully

.....  
(School principal)

✂.....  
I,..... (insert name of parent/carer) agree to care for and follow the protocol below for the care of the cane toads for the period to .....

I have read and understood the above information and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the five needs, as listed above, are provided to the animal for which I am in charge.

## APPENDIX B | PROTOCOL FOR THE COLLECTION OF TOADS

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1. Have all necessary equipment ready before handling the toad – gloves, plastic bag, and plastic container with lid. Label the container with CANE TOAD.
2. Always wear gloves when handling toads – either thick rubber gloves or gardening gloves.
3. Pick the toad up firmly, preferably with your hand over its back, and place it in the plastic bag and secure the top.
4. Place the bag and toad into the plastic container and put the lid on
5. If kept overnight, they should be kept in a suitable moist and warm ventilated container for a period of less than 18 hours.

**PLEASE NOTE: Cane toads may be kept without a licence or permit.**

# CANE TOAD STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

## ACTIVITY NOTIFICATION FORM

|   |     |  |                             |
|---|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| SCHOOL NAME   |     |  |                             |
| ACTIVITY LEADER'S NAME  |     |  |                             |
| PHONE   |     | EMAIL  |                             |
| SCHOOLING SECTOR/ SCIENTIFIC USER REGISTRATION NUMBER (ISSUED BY DAF)   |     |  |                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STATE SCHOOL   | 102 | <input type="checkbox"/> QCEC  | <input type="checkbox"/> SQ |
| ACTIVITY TITLE  |     |  |                             |
| SUBJECT AREA/S  |     |  |                             |
| YEAR LEVEL/S  |     |  |                             |
| SPECIES OF ANIMAL/S   |     |  |                             |
| NUMBER OF ANIMALS   |     | (MINIMUM RATIO IS<br>3 STUDENTS: 1 ANIMAL FOR TOAD DISSECTION)   |                             |
| DECLARATION BY THE ACTIVITY LEADER  |     |  |                             |
| <p>I acknowledge that I am the teacher appointed/authorised teacher representative who will conduct this animal use activity. In that capacity I agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I and all others involved are familiar, and will comply, with the <u><i>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)</i></u>, the <u><i>Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012 (Qld)</i></u> and the <u><i>Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 8<sup>th</sup> edition 2013.</i></u></li> <li>I have read and understood <u>Responsibilities of School Personnel under the Code.</u></li> <li>No animal will be used in this activity except as described in this SOP and Activity Notification form.</li> <li>Adequate resources will be available to undertake the project.</li> <li>Health risks and infection controls have been considered and assessed.</li> <li>All staff members and students involved in animal use activities are competent to perform the necessary tasks with care and knowledge of their ethical and legal responsibilities and the conditions imposed by the SOP.</li> </ul> <p>I agree that I have considered the 3Rs of animal welfare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>replacement</b> of animals with other methods (alternatives)</li> <li><b>reduction</b> in numbers of animals used</li> <li><b>refinement</b> of techniques used, in order to reduce adverse impacts on animals.</li> </ul> |     |  |                             |
| ACTIVITY LEADER'S SIGNATURE   |     |  |                             |
| PRINCIPAL'S NAME  |     | <input type="checkbox"/> have read and approved this application.<br><input type="checkbox"/> A hard copy of this application will be held for 7 years for audit purposes. |                             |
| PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE   |     |  |                             |
| DATE  |     | / /  |                             |

All fields must be complete before lodging this Activity Nomination Form.  
 Email this **signed page only** to [Animal.Ethics@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:Animal.Ethics@dete.qld.gov.au) or fax it to (07) 3513 5989.

Ensure that you keep the signed hardcopy of this notification on file in your school's animal register for auditing purposes.