



# Lithgow Environment Group Inc.

PO Box 3081 Bowenfels, NSW 2790

Incorporated Association No. 9892192

*Preserving the Balance of Nature*

## HELP SHEET

**Traps are to be only placed on private property, to avoid possible public sensitivity and public liability issues and to avoid vandalism.**

- Place the trap in a relatively open area or where birds already feed, if possible: avoid spots where there is heavy people or animal traffic. Have a clear area around the trap – say 1.5 – 2 metres, so the mynas can see that there are no cats around.
- Bait the trap with a food the birds are used to feeding on. Suburban feeding birds are used to pet food as many pet owners leave food out for their pets during the day. Small dry dog or cat biscuits has been successful, as has VIP pet roll. Tinned wet dog / cat food can attract flies in hot weather though. Do not use bread, cereal and grain-based foods (birdseed and breadcrumbs etc) as this attracts non-target birds such as crested pigeons and parrots.
- Put the bait in the tunnels of the feeding chamber, and inside the feeding chamber where the mynas can see the food directly in front of them when they are in the tunnel, and scatter some around loose in the chamber. Put food in the larger containment chamber and fresh water for captured birds. Don't skimp on the bait, as you want them to see the food and be lured into the trap. **Keep the bait fresh** – every few days add a bit more to keep it fresh. If it rains, discard the bait and start again as the bait goes soggy and is unattractive to the birds.
- Monitor daily to ensure bait and water are available while trapping. Keep pets (particularly cats) away when trapping as the birds see cats as predators and are unlikely to approach the trap. If you smell cat odour on or around the trap, hose down and start again.
- **Do not approach the trap if there is a myna inside and others are around nearby, as the trapped myna will give alarm call which will tell others that you and the trap are to be avoided.**
- Clean (hose down — if very badly fouled, scrub down the trap). Relocate trap after the area becomes soiled from captured birds, so they are not around their own excrement. Place newspaper or cardboard under the trap if using the trap on paved surfaces to avoid spoiling your pavements.
- Don't be disappointed if you don't catch birds every day: just persist. They may have moved to another food source in the area but will return if the trap has fresh bait.
- A "caller" bird in the containment chamber of your trap will encourage others to the trap. So, don't be in a rush to dispose of the first bird caught, as it will call others into the trap, but after no more than 2 days when you notice no more are going in, then dispose of the trapped birds.
- Use gloves when handling live or dead birds as these birds may carry disease.

- For your trapping to be successful you will need to follow the trapping process consistently and methodically. You will need patience and persistence for your trapping to be successful.
- Ensure that the birds you are aiming to trap are Indian Mynas or Starlings and not native Noisy Miners. Noisy Miners are protected by law and it is illegal to trap them without a licence.
- Do not approach the trap during daylight hours. Even if you can't see the Indian Mynas they can see you. If un-trapped Indian Mynas see you handling a trap, particularly once you have a trapped bird, they will avoid entering the trap.
- Traps should not be modified or changed in any way as they have been designed specifically for Indian Mynas and starlings.
- Only ever set up the trap when you are able to check it morning and evening. Otherwise, ensure that the trap is stored away safely at any other time that it is not in use, as this will prevent accidental trapping of non-target animals. This will also prevent vermin from eating your bait.
- Keep pets and children away from the trap as Indian Mynas and Starlings are extremely wary birds and are sensitive to disturbance. Pets may also eat the bait intended for the birds.
- If you trap any non-target species, you must release them through the door hatches as soon as possible.

## Conclusion on recommended type of euthanasia:

**Carbon Monoxide (CO):** If simple precautions to avoid accidental exposure to humans are followed, CO from cooled petrol engine exhaust is a practical and humane euthanasia agent. CO is produced only when an engine is running, is widely available and far cheaper than CO<sub>2</sub>. In tests carried out by the CSIRO, the birds became unconscious within 9-11 seconds without any visible reaction and last movement was observed within 1 minute with no stressful handling.

**Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):** CO<sub>2</sub> involves the transport of pressurised cylinders, is far more costly and not as readily available. In tests carried out by the CSIRO, it was found that when using CO<sub>2</sub>, the birds experienced gape and head shaking which was construed to indicate stress while the birds were still conscious.

**Cervical Dislocation:** This involves catching and handling the birds which causes them stress and should only be carried out by trained operators.

**Lethal Injection:** Again, this should be carried out by a trained professional. It involves handling the birds which is stressful for them and it is an expensive method.

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