



## Who is responsible for control?

The Department of Conservation has the primary responsibility under the Wild Animal Control Act (1977).

Environment Canterbury has established a Site-Led Programme on Banks Peninsula to prevent farmed goats from becoming feral to assist in containing and reducing feral goat numbers and to protect native biodiversity. Landowners within this Containment Area are responsible for ensuring secure fencing and ensuring their goats are clearly identifiable through a marking, such as an ear tag.

*Note: Environment Canterbury has declared goats as feral only on Banks Peninsula. Outside this area the requirements of the Wild Animal Control Act are applicable.*

*Cover image credit: Department of Conservation.*



*We are particularly focused on feral goats in the Banks Peninsula containment area. However, there are small populations of feral goats throughout Canterbury. They are most common on rocky or hilly country and prefer forest or scrub-covered areas.*

### More information

[www.ecan.govt.nz/pests](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/pests)  
(pages 73 to 74 of the plan)



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E18/6756

## Feral Goats

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



# Feral Goats

(*Capra aegagrus hircus*)

**PEST STATUS:**  
Site Led Programme

The objective of this programme is to reduce the population of feral (wild) goats within the Banks Peninsula Containment Area to protect biodiversity values.

## What is a feral goat?

Under the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan (CRPMP) a feral goat is defined as a free individual goat or wild population, which has escaped from a property where it is farmed. The CRPMP requires land occupiers to tag farm goats and ensure they are held behind a goat proof fence.

## Why are feral goats a pest?

Feral goats will eat almost anything, which can often cause significant, and sometimes permanent, damage to native vegetation and forests.

## Control options

Control options are capture or search and destroy (i.e. shooting). Any person shooting must either hold a firearms licence, or be under supervision of a person who holds a firearms licence and is over 20 years of age. You should inform your neighbours where, and when, you intend to shoot. This may be an opportunity to coordinate your efforts with neighbours.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Goats arrived in New Zealand as early as 1773, when Captain James Cook released them ashore in the Marlborough Sounds during his second voyage here.



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR



Male goats are about 70cm high at the shoulder and can weigh between 50kg and 60kg.

Adult females are much smaller. Both sexes have horns. Only male goats have chin beards.



> Hair may be white, black, brown or a combination of colours.

> Faecal pellets are as large as 20mm x 8mm, in an elongated oval shape, found singly or in groups.



> Tracks show paired hooves with pointy, in-curved tips.