Feral goats and depots

A feral goat is one that has been captured from a wild state, has not been born as a result of a managed breeding program, and has not been subjected to any animal husbandry procedure or treatment.

Feral goats include kids born in a depot to captured does as a result of unmanaged mating with feral bucks.

Feral goats are not:

- captured goats that have been marked, ear marked, tagged, joined or treated with any veterinary medicine, drench or other chemical;
- domestic goats that have been bred in captivity and subsequently escaped or released.

A goat depot is a property that is used to aggregate goats prior to sale or slaughter and operates in accordance with the Industry NLIS Standards for operating a Goat Depot published on the Goat Industry Council of Australia website.

Goat depots must be accredited with Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) which means that it is able to complete its own national vendor declaration (NVD) for goats leaving the depot.

‘Rangeland’ is used by industry to describe the environment from which feral goats have originated for marketing purposes. Question 2 on the current NVD for goats asks whether the goats have been grown under rangeland conditions in accordance with the definition in the NVD’s explanatory notes.

The definition says “Rangeland refers to goats which are harvested and have never been confined to a feedlot or subjected to any chemical treatment”. This definition is consistent with the feral goat definition as a feral goat captured from the wild, in the NSW Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017.

For detailed information on National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) responsibilities for goat depots see the Industry NLIS Standards for operating a Goat Depot.

Ear tags

Feral goats do not have to be tagged if they are being moved from the property on which they are captured to an abattoir for slaughter, either directly or via one goat depot. Once at the depot, feral goats must be transported to an abattoir within 10 days.

The exemption from tagging recognises the difficulties of handling feral bucks and determining the property of birth of feral goats.

Once consigned to an abattoir, untagged feral goats must be slaughtered, although they may be held for up to 7 days in holding paddocks managed by the abattoir operator.

Feral goats must be identified with a pink post-breeder tag with the property identification code (PIC) of the property of capture if the goats are to be moved from that property to any other property (other than a depot) or to a saleyard for sale.

Feral goats must be identified with a pink post-breeder tag with the goat depot PIC if the goats are to be moved from the depot to any other property (including another depot), to a saleyard for sale or for live export.

Goats born in a depot do not need to be tagged if they are the result of unmanaged mating between feral does and bucks, and have not been marked or treated in any way, and are being sent to an abattoir for slaughter. All other goats born in a depot must be tagged.

Tags must be NLIS-approved and have the PIC of the property on which the goats are tagged printed on them, together with the NLIS logo. Individual serial numbers and other management information may also be printed on the tags.
Movement documents

All movements of feral goats must be accompanied by an approved NLIS movement document containing the correct delivery information. This must be provided to the person receiving the goats at the time of delivery. The two most commonly used forms are:

- LPA NVD and Waybill for goats. This is the preferred form as it meets all statutory, market and product integrity requirements;
- Transported stock statement (TSS) obtained from a Local Land Services (LLS) office or provided by a transporter.

The PIC and address of the property where the feral goats were loaded for trucking must be recorded as the ‘Property/place where the journey commenced’ on an NVD or the ‘Place of loading stock’ on a TSS.

If the goats are tagged, any PICs on tags which differ from the pre-printed PIC on the NVD must be written as ‘other PICs’ in the ‘Description’ table on the NVD or TSS.

Note: Abattoirs usually do not accept stock with a TSS, a NVD should be used in these situations.

A copy of the NVD or TSS must be retained by both the person sending the goats and the goat depot operator for at least 7 years.

Mob-based movement recording

All movements to the goat depot and from the goat depot must be recorded by the depot operator as a mob on the NLIS database and must be uploaded within 2 working days of the goats arriving or leaving the depot.

Summary of movement requirements

The tag, document and movement recording requirements for feral goats are summarised in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement of feral goats</th>
<th>NLIS Tag</th>
<th>Movement document (NVD or TSS)</th>
<th>Mob based movement recording</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property of capture to abattoir</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>For property of capture (NVD preferred)</td>
<td>By abattoir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property of capture to depot</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>For property of capture</td>
<td>By depot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property of capture to property</td>
<td>Post breeder tag for property of capture</td>
<td>For property of capture</td>
<td>By second property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property of capture to saleyard</td>
<td>Post breeder tag for property of capture</td>
<td>For property of capture</td>
<td>By saleyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depot to abattoir</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>For depot (NVD preferred)</td>
<td>By depot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depot to depot</td>
<td>Post breeder tag for first depot</td>
<td>For first depot</td>
<td>By first depot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depot to property</td>
<td>Depot</td>
<td>For depot</td>
<td>By depot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depot to saleyard</td>
<td>Depot</td>
<td>For depot</td>
<td>By depot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More Information

Local Lands Services: 1300 795 299 or go to http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/

NLIS Database Helpdesk: 1800 654 743 or support@nlis.com.au.

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA): 1800 683 111 or email lpa@mla.com.au


For updates go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/factsheets

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