

Cairns RIM Inc.

Protocol on Animal Welfare

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The Cairns RIM campaign has the aim of protecting native birds from the threat posed by the Indian Myna (or Common Myna). Part of its strategy is to undertake a humane Myna reduction program through trapping and euthanizing.

The following data has been prepared with assistance from CIMAG, the Canberra Action Group, which like RIM, is a community group formed to reduce the impact of Mynas on native birds and animals

Cairns RIM recommends that Myna trappers adopt the following animal welfare protocol.

Management of Traps

Traps to be used are those designed specifically for Indian Mynas (or sparrows) and must include a release opening to allow any native birds caught to be released without harm. Trappers are not to use seed-based food in traps as this can attract native birds. If a native bird is trapped, it is to be released immediately hopefully without letting any Mynas escape

The traps are to contain food and clean water for any trapped birds. The birds are not to be exposed to undue stress while trapped — avoid manhandling or approaching the traps too frequently.

Trapped Indian Mynas (and sparrows) are to be disposed of in a reasonable period (within two days), rather than kept captive for days on end.

If decoy birds are used in traps, they and any trapped birds are to have access to adequate food, clean water, shelter and shade.

The birds are not to be treated cruelly or with harsh conditions: please observe the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1992. Traps are to be checked morning and evening.

Dealing With Trapped Birds

The method used for doing away trapped birds is to be quick, painless, and stress-free. Acceptable euthanizing methods include gassing with carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide. If using carbon monoxide, use a car with a cold engine: do not use diesel vehicles. Ensure you place the containment chamber with the trapped birds in a near-airtight bag or box.

Connect a grey water hose / pipe from the car or motor mower exhaust pipe into the bag / box and run the cold car/mower for a minute or so: the birds should be unconscious within 10-15 seconds and dead within 30-40 seconds.

If it takes longer than 30-40 seconds for the birds to die peacefully there is something wrong with your technique, and you should contact RIM for advice.

We prefer that cervical dislocation (breaking their necks) is not used, except by qualified professionals and then is to be instantaneous, with minimal handling of the birds. Our preference is that trappers do not adopt this method as it is stressful to the birds in the trap, unpleasant and can allow birds to escape.

Should you not wish to kill birds, most vets will euthanize and dispose of trapped birds free of charge. The below vets were contacted by RIM and have agreed to provide this service:

1. Smithfield Vet Clinic

4/2 Cumberland Avenue, Smithfield
Ph 4038 1666

2. Cairns Vet Clinic

76 Pease Street, Manoora
Ph 4032 9999

3. Cairns Vet Clinic

8 Norman Street, Gordonvale
Ph 4032 9988

Please phone before taking in birds.

Dead birds are to be disposed of in a hygienic and environmentally sound way.

If you have questions, please email: cnsrim@gmail.com