

AGRICULTURAL FENCING AND NETTING

Every year thousands of wild animals die due to starvation, predation and injury while trapped in fences, while those who are rescued are often euthanised due to the severity of their injuries.

BARBED WIRE FENCING

Though the invention of double strand barbed wire fences seemed revolutionary to industrialised farming, it has been devastating for indigenous animals. Some of the species known to become caught in barbed wire fences are sugar gliders, flying-foxes and macropods like kangaroos and wallabies.

Even when found alive, rescuers record high rates of euthanasia for animals caught, as they often cause great trauma to their wings and other parts of their body as they struggle to escape. Many of those who escape fencing subsequently die of exposure, starvation, infection or predation following entanglement.

EXCLUSION FENCING

The most infamous exclusionary fence in so-called Australia is the notorious Dingo Fence. Though it is primarily used to protect sheep from dingoes, there are a range of unintended consequences that include significant welfare impacts for animals on the outside of the fence and wider environmental consequences.

FRUIT NETTING

Due to continued displacement from their natural habitat due to tree clearing and extreme weather events, native animals are increasingly resorting to flowering and fruiting trees as a food source. Though other lethal methods, including electrocution, have been used to deter unwanted wildlife in the past, netting has become a popular solution to keep native animals from eating fruit. Some types of netting however, can be deadly for wildlife, with backyard nets likely causing more harm to wildlife than even commercial vineyards.

WE CAN DO BETTER FOR WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCING AND NETTING

Wildlife Friendly Fencing is an initiative that aims to raise public awareness around the impacts of agricultural fencing on wildlife, and develop guidelines for more wildlife friendly practices. These include plain wire fencing, split polypipe fencing, electric fencing, virtual fencing and nylon wires.

The test for whether or not wildlife will become tangled in netting is if your finger can pass through their holes. If they cannot, wildlife should not be able to become entangled in these nets. Lastly, the best solution is to share our natural resources with hungry wildlife, who have continued to lose more and more viable habitat due to unsustainable colonial expansion.

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

Our current farming system is resource intensive, drives the lethal control of native species, demands the destruction of vital habitats and contributes significantly to the climate crisis. In order to truly protect the living world we need to begin planning (and investing) towards a just transition from animal-based farming to plant-based, and Indigenous led permaculture practices.

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