

OUR ENVIRONMENT OUR HERITAGE

WANTED



By the Division of Environment
& Conservation (MNRE) &
Quarantine Division (MAF)

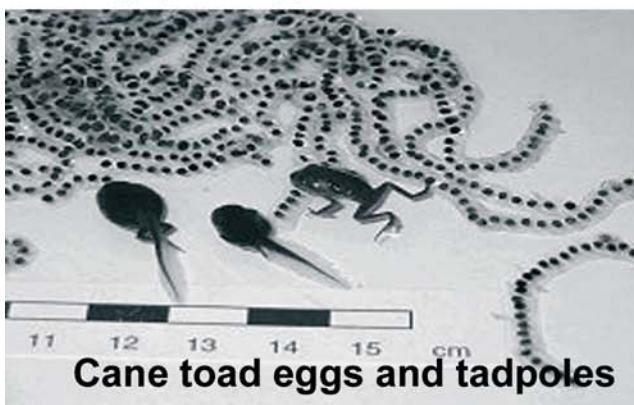
**FOR
INVADING SAMOA
CANE TOAD**

**Call
31197/8 or 20924**



What is it?

- The cane toad (*Bufo marinus*) is an invasive pest native to Central America.
- Colouring: cane toads may be grey, yellowish, olive-brown or reddish brown, and their bellies are pale with dark mottling.
- Average size adults are 10-15cm long. But they have been known to grow up to 26cm and weight up to 2.5kg!
- Cane toad eggs can be easily identified as they look like black beads in a string of jelly.
- Cane toads are mostly active at night and are attracted to lights.
- In Samoa Cane toads have recently been reported from Pesega, Siusega and Tuanaimato



Cane toad eggs and tadpoles

Contact:

DEC (Vaiala Office): 31197/8

Quarantine (Matautu-tai Office): 20924
or 7785102

Why is it a problem?

- Females lay 8,000 to 50,000 eggs at a time and may produce two clutches a year.
- Within the tropics toads grow very quickly and reach sexual maturity within one year.
- Cane toads will pollute our watercatchment areas, therefore, affecting our drinking water.
- Cane toads are poisons to humans, pets and domesticated animals and can cause illness and even death!!.
- As their populations increase they threaten many natural ecosystems.
- Cane toads eat large numbers of honey bees creating a management problem for bee keepers.
- Cane toads are a serious threat to our native fauna, e.g. lizards, skinks, geckos, ground nesting birds, insects, snails, slugs etc.
- Compete for food with vertebrate insectivores.
- Cane toads are extremely noisy at night.
- Cane toads are a serious pest in Australia, Florida USA, P.N.G, the Philippines, most Caribbean Islands and many Pacific Islands.

What is DEC doing about it?

- DEC is a part of the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment fighting to protect Samoa's unique ecosystem.
- DEC works to prevent invasive species from becoming established in Samoa.
 - to control/suppress and eradicate (where possible) invasive species which have become established.
- DEC in collaboration with Quarantine are working to prevent cane toads from becoming established in Samoa.

What can you do?

- If you see a cane toad or spawn (eggs), tadpoles call DEC/Quarantine or bring it into our office at Vaiala.
- If possible capture the toad/spawns/tadpoles and bring them to our office.
- If you come across cane toad spawns (eggs) they can be killed by lifting the strands from the water and laying them in the sun to dry out.

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Children's Corner



Children aged 9-15 are invited to answer the following corner. The name of 3 students with top scores at the end of every month will be posted under the "Children's Corner" for special prizes. "Children's Environment Awareness 2007 Awards will be given to 10 students with top total scores at the end of the year.

TOAD SCRAMBLE

Put the letters in the right order to complete a WISE TOAD THOUGHT! An example has already been done for you.

Eg: Cane toads can cause illness (ne2sslli4)

1. Cane toads _____ (teullop0) our water catchment areas
2. Cane toads are a threat to many natural _____ (co5esytems)
3. Cane toads are serious _____ (htreat7) to our native fauna
4. An average _____ (dula3t) size of a toad are 10-15m long
5. Cane toads eggs are like black _____ (ads8be)
6. Cane toad is an _____ (asiv1ven9i) specie
7. Scientific name for Cane _____ (oad6t) is Bufo marinus

Numbers have been placed next to letters in the above activity. Place these in the correct places in the box below and find out what word is formed.

8	7	5	0	4	9	1	3	8	4	1	2	7	5	3	6	8
			i					i		e						



Toby Speare holds up strings of cane toad eggs collected the morning after spawning (Townsville, 1988)

TOAD QUIZ

1. Cane toad are extremely noisy at night
 - a) false
 - b) true
 - c) don't know
2. Cane toads are poisons to
 - a) humans
 - b) pets
 - c) both
3. Female toads lay
 - a) 5 eggs at a time
 - b) 100-1000 eggs at a time
 - c) 8,000 - 50,000 eggs at a time
4. DEC is adivision of what Ministry?
 - a) Ministry of Agriculture
 - b) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
 - c) Ministry of Health
5. Cane toads are mostly active
 - a) at night
 - b) in the morning
 - c) in the afternoon
6. Quarantine Unit is part of what Ministry?
 - a) Ministry of Health
 - b) Ministry of Agriculture
 - c) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
7. If you see a cane toad
 - a) Contact the DEC of the MNRE
 - b) Contact the Quarantine Unit
 - c) All of the above

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ministry wishes to acknowledge the following companies for providing our children's prizes

- Samoa Biscuits
- Business System Ltd
- West End Company Ltd
- McDonald's Family Restaurant

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Capacity Building & Human
Resource Development Section

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