



## Common Myna trap: guidelines for use

### General

1. **Read these instructions carefully *before* using the trap.**
2. **It is a condition of using this trap that captured birds are treated and disposed of humanely** (see overleaf for more information).
3. **Important: *Always* handle/replenish the trap before sunrise or after sundown when Mynas are inactive. Don't approach the trap at any time during daylight hours.**

Mynas are intelligent birds and will come to associate humans with the trap if they observe you near it. If that happens, they will avoid the trap.

4. **Always wear gloves when handling captured birds.**
5. **Trapping can be undertaken at most times of the year, except during inclement weather. However, the best time to trap Mynas is when the chicks fledge and leave the nest in mid-November/December, as this will help maximise numbers captured.** In ideal conditions, Mynas will breed from October to March; generally though, most breeding activity occurs in Spring.
6. **Never leave the trap set if you intend to be away from home for more than one day.**
7. If the trap is set, ***always* ensure there is plenty of food and water for captured birds.**
8. This trap is designed solely for the capture of Common Mynas. It should not be used for any other purpose.

### Using the trap

#### Day 1:

- **Place the trap in an open, *traffic-free* (vehicles, humans and animals) area where you have observed Mynas feeding, ideally between 50 to 100 metres from your house.**

Ensure that pets are kept well away from the trap and that it is in a place that is unlikely to attract mice and/or rats. Elevate the trap on a solid base if you need to. The trap may be placed adjacent to a chicken pen if needed.

- **Bait both sections of the trap - dry dog/cat food generally works well – and leave all entrances open. Remember to include a bowl of water in each section.**

#### Days 2-4/5:

- **Check the trap before sunrise and replenish food/water supplies, but otherwise stay away from it.** This will give the Mynas a chance to get accustomed to the trap and recognise it as a reliable food source.

- **Once Mynas are comfortable with the trap and you have observed them moving freely on, in and around it** – this can take up to 3-4 days - **close all the doors on the trap.**
- **Place 80% of the food into the larger holding cage and 20% in the feeding section.**

Note: If food starts to disappear from the large holding cage but no birds are being caught, then mice or rats may be responsible.

#### **The first catch:**

- **Once a Myna is caught in the trap, stay well away from it until after sundown.**  
Mynas are a “flock” species. This means that the other birds in the flock will respond to the calls of the trapped bird and be tempted into the trap.
- **Under cover of darkness, remove the captured birds from the trap one by one through the top door. If there are additional birds to catch, replenish the food/water and leave one Myna in the trap.** This will help to create a continuous trapping cycle.
- **Place the remaining Mynas in a largish cloth bag to help keep them calm and injury-free** until you are ready to euthanase them.
- **Release any bicatch** (e.g. captured native birds). **To do so, simply open your hands and let them fly free.** Don't toss them into the air, put them on the ground or into a bush, as this may cause them injury.
- **Replenish food/water every night until all Mynas are caught.**

**Note:** If the trap isn't working, remove it for several days or put it in a different location and repeat the above steps.

#### **Disposing of captured birds**

It is a condition of trap use that captured birds are euthanased humanely, which means that the method you choose should be quick, painless and stress free. The Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) recommends:

1. **Injection of barbiturates** by a qualified veterinarian; or
2. **Cervical dislocation** (i.e. breaking each bird's neck).

Other methods utilised elsewhere include the inhalation of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) or Carbon Monoxide (CO) gas; however the Victorian Government is awaiting the outcome of further research before recommending this as a humane method.

The Canberra-based Indian Myna Action Group Inc has been running a successful Myna-control program since 2006. Their website, at [www.indianmynaaction.org.au](http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au), contains useful information on Myna trapping and the humane disposal of captured birds.

Alternatively, visit the DEPI website at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/ag1415-indian-mynas](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/ag1415-indian-mynas) for more information.

To contact the Kara Kara CMN, email [karakaracmn@gmail.com](mailto:karakaracmn@gmail.com) or phone **0428 160 297**.



## Common Myna trap: agreement to conditions of use

I, \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge receipt of a Common Myna trap on loan from the Kara Kara Conservation Management Network (Kara Kara CMN).

I also understand and acknowledge that:

- This trap has been loaned to me by the Kara Kara Conservation Management Network (Kara Kara CMN) in exchange for a \$20 refundable deposit on the basis that I abide by the KKCMN's guidelines for appropriate trap use and the humane euthanasia of captured birds, as set out in the information sheet provided to me.
- The due date for return of the trap is one month from the loan date, as indicated below.

I confirm that:

- I have received a copy of the Kara Kara CMN's information sheet, *Common Myna trap: guidelines for use*.
- I will use the trap solely for its intended purpose; that is, for trapping Common Mynas.
- I undertake to euthanase captured birds humanely in accordance with the DEPI guidelines.
- This trap remains the property of the Kara Kara CMN and I undertake to return it in an undamaged condition once trapping has been completed, at which time my deposit will be returned to me.
- If the trap is not returned, or is returned in a damaged condition, Kara Kara CMN reserves the right to retain my deposit, at which time my deposit will be forfeit.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Loan date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Return due date:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_