

# invasive species!

## PROTECTING YOUR POULTRY – FOX-PROOF PEN DESIGN

The European red fox was introduced into Victoria in 1855 as part of an acclimatisation program for the sport of recreational hunting. After the dingo and wild dog, the fox is the largest carnivorous mammal on mainland Australia.

Poultry of all type are vulnerable to attacks by wild dogs, foxes and free roaming domestic dogs. In areas where invasive species are abundant, the best way to protect poultry is to contain them in a secure area. Exclusion fencing or a fox-proof poultry pen is also considered the most humane technique to control foxes. Ensure poultry are secured during the night when foxes are most active.

### The design

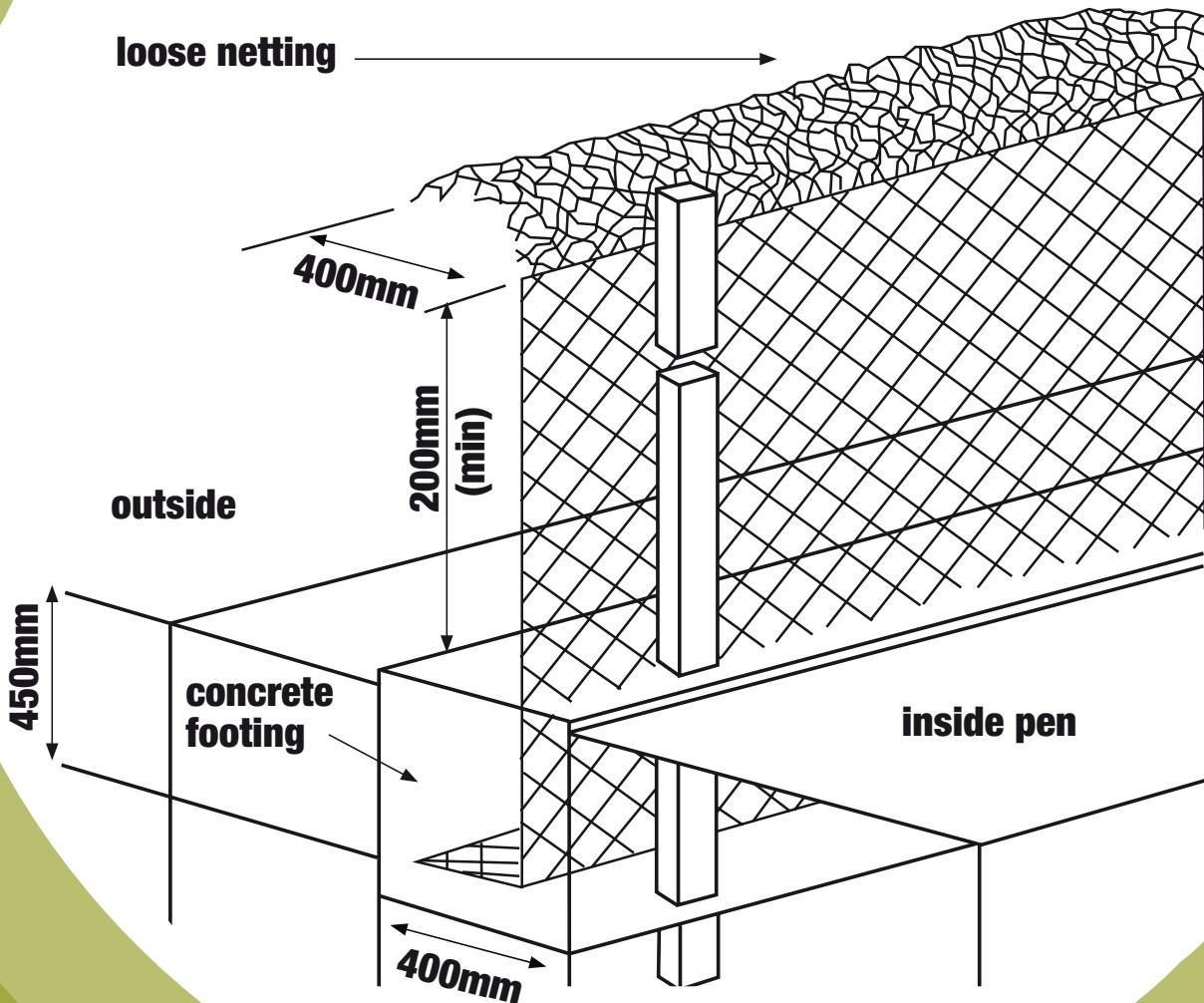
A fox-proof poultry pen must have the following design features.

- Fully-enclosed chicken house with a fox-proof door, roof and floor.
- Netting roof – ensure there are no gaps, especially around the base, door and roof. Foxes are very adept in scaling fences even when they are electrified. To combat this, one of the best fence designs has a curved overhang, which prevents foxes from jumping or climbing over the fence.
- Use 10mm budgie or mouse wire. Bury the wire netting at least 450mm below the ground as foxes are also excellent diggers, unless the sides are attached to a wooden or concrete floor. Alternatively, an apron of netting angled outwards for 500mm at the base of the fence will deter foxes from digging under the fence.
- A 600mm strip of tin sheeting or opaque shade cloth can be placed around the bottom of the wire fencing to prevent wild dogs or foxes from seeing the poultry.

**Image second from top:** © State of Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, 2009 **Bottom image:** © H. Hoffman



# FOX-PROOF POULTRY FENCE RECOMMENDED DESIGN



If you have already installed a fox-proof poultry pen and still encounter fox issues, please call Brisbane City Council on (07) 3403 8888.

Managing invasive species protects the city's native wildlife and is another way Council is achieving our shared vision for a clean, green Brisbane.

Brisbane City Council acknowledges the assistance of Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland in preparing this fact sheet.



**Brisbane City Council  
Information**  
GPO Box 1434  
Brisbane Qld 4001

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