

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

NO. 110 OF 1997

Section 22 of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 provides that the Minister may approve codes of practice relating to animal welfare.

The Code of Practice for the Humane Control of the Fox was endorsed by a joint working party of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee together with representatives of the Conservation and Wildlife Section, animal control and pest management consultants and local landcare groups within the ACT as well as other State and Territory Departments concerned with wildlife and agricultural issues.

The ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee endorsed the Code of Practice for adoption in April 1997.

The provisions of the Code are detailed below:

The purpose of the Code is to specify the requirements for the humane control of the fox within the Australian Capital Territory.

**Section 1** advises the different legislation concerned in pest animal control.

**Section 2** identifies the European red fox as a significant predator of native and domestic animals.

**Section 3** details differing methods of managing the fox impact without necessarily resorting to methods of killing. Methods of modifying the environment, the use of protective dogs in rural situations, fencing and ultrasonic devices are discussed.

**Section 4** outlines the requirements for the use of firearms in controlling fox populations.

**Section 5** details the requirements for the use of traps for catching foxes.

**Section 6** discusses the use of den fumigation or destruction for controlling fox populations.

**Section 7** describes the research currently being conducted into fertility control.

**Section 8** describes the current methods of poisoning for the control of the fox impact.

**Section 9** outlines the steps to be taken in the event of and outbreak of exotic disease in the wild animal population.