

## University Avenue Veterinary Hospital

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## Making your yard a toad-free zone



Keeping cane toads out of your property may be possible...but it will not be easy. The cane toad is one of the most determined, abundant and robust animals in the world: it is a worthy adversary. There are no entirely reliable proven ways to keep cane toads out. But the guidelines here are our best guesses based on what we know. They could help minimise the chance of toads getting in.

### **Fencing:**

Toads are not very good at climbing, hopping or burrowing. So a well-designed fence around your property may keep toads out.

The fence should be:

- A smooth solid material such as metal sheeting. Mesh fencing - for example flywire - may provide handholds for toads to climb over or may allow juvenile toads through.
- At least 50cm high
- Buried about 10cm into the ground

Remember to check the fence regularly for breaches caused by trees, water or other animals. You will also need to consider the weak points in your perimeter fencing ie. access roads and gates

### **Water:**

Toads prefer to drink or moisten themselves at least every two days. You can make your property less attractive for toads by eliminating (or fencing) any standing water, and using sprinklers infrequently.

### **Garden maintenance:**

Toads hunt most effectively in relatively open areas with little vegetation, such as closely cropped lawns and bare areas. Gardens with long grass or dense ground vegetation will be far less attractive to toads.

### **Lighting:**

Toads like night-time lighting, because they can feast on the many moths and other insects that are also attracted to the light.

### **Reduce Shelters:**

Toads seek shelter during the day in places that offer some shade and security, such as under rubbish and debris, in old car tyres, etc. You can make life far less tolerable for toads by eliminating such shelters.

### **Patrols:**

Regular searches, for example by torchlight at night, may help you to find and destroy any toad intruders before they get a chance to breed and build up numbers. If you think one or a few toads have got into your place, it may be easier to find them by putting out a bowl of water and using a tape of their display calls.