

Dangerous Hitch-Hiker Captured



Cane Toad (Bufo marinus)

Last Thursday a vigilant member of the public saw a suspicious looking "frog" at Tuanaimato near the South Pacific Games complex.

He immediately reported it to Quarantine who knew straight away that this was a **Cane Toad** (*Bufo marinus*) and, even though it was late in the afternoon they immediately began a survey of the area to see if there were anymore. Nothing was seen in the afternoon and the survey was continued on the Friday morning, the search went on all day and once again nothing more was found.

The survey area was enlarged and searching was resumed again on Saturday morning and by the time that the survey was finished Quarantine had searched an area of over two kilometres - but no more Cane Toads were discovered. A final search was made on Tuesday involving nearly 100 MAF staff covering a five kilometer area, and no more toads were seen.

It was then decided that the single cane toad, a young juvenile, had been a hitch-hiker, probably brought in on an overseas container delivered to the South Pacific Games area.

The toad was killed by freezing it.

Note:

Cane Toads are present in American Samoa and in large areas of Australia. They are poisonous and can injure humans and pets with their toxins. They are a predatory animal that can quickly take over an area and drive (or wipe out) native species, they eat almost anything they can swallow, including pet food, carrion and household scraps, but most of their food is living insects. Beetles, honey bees, ants, winged termites, crickets and bugs are eaten in abundance. Marine snails, small lizards, native geckos, and small mammals are occasionally eaten by Cane Toads.

This is one tourist that is NOT WELCOME in Samoa, if you think you have seen one follow the example of this vigilant person and tell Quarantine immediately.

Want more information about Quarantine, or about Plant and Animal Export issues?

Come and see us at our office at the [Quarantine Operations Centre, Matautu-tai](#), telephone 20924/22171.
Visit our website www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws