

Cane Toad Alert

In recent months, there has been much publicity about Cane Toad in the country. Seven cases were reported (Tuanaimato, Tuaeufu, Siusega, Pesega, Lotopa, Samoa College, and Matautu), of which a dead toad was brought from Tuanaimato and recently, (30th of May 2007) a live one was found in the Moata'a, Vaiala, Matautu area.



Fig. 1 Adult Cane Toad

A standing emergency response action by Quarantine Staff involves immediate surveillance and public awareness. Surveillance has been active during the day and night and so far, nothing has been found. Public consultations have been carried out with families, schools, village mayors, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. At least one thousand leaflets have been distributed to people in suspected areas.

A feedback survey is being carried out. All those interviewed have given full support to our hunting for this pest. Public cooperation was also reflected in the independent assessment by the local newspaper "Samoa Observer".

Cane Toads breed in still and slow-flowing water. Spawns are laid in long strings of transparent jelly enclosing double rows of black eggs.

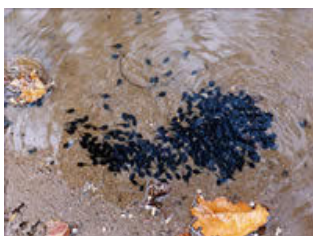


Fig 2. Tadpoles

We should be diligently watching out for this pest. The animal is most active at night. When sighted, please catch it and bring it to Quarantine.

"We don't want this pest".