



## WILDLIFE ETHICS COMMITTEE

### Use of tracking tunnels policy

The use of tracking tunnels is an indirect, non-obtrusive method of monitoring animal presence.

Tracking tunnels consist of a rigid plastic walk-through tunnel fixed to a timber base. A kitchen sponge soaked in dilute food-colouring is placed into a shallow dish fixed in the centre of the tunnel. The floor of the entrance and exit to the tunnel is lined with paper or card. Animals passing through the tunnel leave identifiable footprints on the paper. The tracking tunnel can be placed on a regular animal "runway" and/or scented with bait (e.g. peanut butter).

#### Construction

Tunnels can be constructed of PVC pipe sections, or folded corrugated plastic, and fixed to the timber base with glue, staples or flat-headed nails. The tunnel must be constructed without sharp edges, protuberances or gaps, which could cause injuries. Tunnels must always be open at both ends, and of a consistent diameter. The tunnel diameter should suit the target species. Non-toxic food colouring should be used to obtain the tracks – generally a 1:4 dilution is suitable.

#### Use

Tracking tunnels should be monitored regularly, and removed at the completion of the study.

#### Permissions required

- The use of tracking tunnels to establish the presence of wildlife, for monitoring, research or teaching purposes requires animal ethics approval. This can be done by lodging an application to either the Wildlife Ethics Committee (WEC) or another South Australian animal ethics committee. You should also check with your university/organisation as there may be specific institutional requirements.
- The use of tracking tunnels in a national park or reserve requires a [scientific research permit](#) from the Department for Environment and Water.
- Landholder permission must be obtained before entering private property.
- Any tracking undertaken in locations where Southern Brown Bandicoots are likely to occur should be undertaken in consultation with the Bandicoot Project Officer, Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges, Black Hill Natural Resources Centre, 115 Maryvale Road, Athelstone. Tel: (08) 8336 0901

#### CONTACT

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