

Kawartha Lakes Action Plan to Reduce Threats of Wild Pig Population Establishment in relation to Ontario's Strategy to Address the Threat of Invasive Wild Pigs

1. Objective 1. Prevent the introduction of pigs into the natural environment.

- a. Ontario Action 1.1: Regulate wild pigs as an invasive species under the Invasive Species Act, 2015
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 1.1: Promote links to actions to be taken by pig owners regarding the new rules to prohibit the release of any pig and the clear actions that pig owners must take if the release occurs.
- b. Ontario Action 1.2: Work with partners to develop, update and promote best management practices for outdoor pig containment, transporting pigs, and addressing escapes
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 1.2: Provide information in the form of links to factsheets and guidelines, or webinars or workshops to producers regarding housing, outdoor confinement, fence installation, and recommendations on keeping pigs contained during rearing and transportation, to prevent escapes.
- c. Ontario Action 1.3: Collaborate with partners to develop and deliver outreach for pig owners and producers on their obligations if a pig escape occurs
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 1.3: Collaborate with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) to deliver outreach information to pig owners and producers on their obligations if a pig escape occurs, by providing information through the website and/or hosting webinars or workshops delivered by OMAFRA staff.
- d. Ontario Action 1.5: Collaborate with partners in developing and promoting guidance for responsible pig ownership.
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 1.4: Provide public awareness that keeping livestock is illegal in areas zoned for residential purposes. Pot-bellied pigs, mini pigs, micro-pigs, pocket pigs, and teacup pigs all belong to the species *Sus scrofa* and are considered livestock.
- e. Ontario Action 1.6: Prohibit hunting of wild pigs in Ontario.
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 1.5: Provide information to the public that hunting of wild pigs is banned by the Ontario government to prevent wild pigs from learning to avoid humans.
 - ii. Kawartha Lakes Action 1.6: Provide information that landowners and their agents retain the right to protect their property from wildlife damage, including for the purpose of biosecurity.
- f. Ontario Action 1.7: Support municipalities, where appropriate, in determining policy and legislative actions to address wild pigs in their communities.
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 1.7: Retain by-laws to address issues of escaped, abandoned or otherwise uncontained animals and livestock.

2. Objective 3. Use a coordinated approach to remove wild pigs from the natural environment.

- a. Ontario Action 3.1: Maintain reports of wild pig sightings in a central database.
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 2.1: Consult the provincial wild pig database routinely to monitor levels of wild pig sightings in Kawartha Lakes and provide updates to status through the municipal website should status levels escalate in the future.
- b. Ontario Action 3.2: Develop and share communications to encourage public reporting of wild pig sightings.
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 2.2: Share communications to encourage public and municipal staff reporting of wild pig sightings.
- c. Ontario Action 3.4: Undertake actions to remove wild pigs from the natural environment.
 - i. Kawartha Lakes Action 2.3: Provide information and collaborative support where feasible to NDMNRF where actions are being undertaken to remove wild pigs from the natural environment in Kawartha Lakes.
 - ii. Kawartha Lakes Action 2.4: Should the wild pig population threat increase, such that the ability of Ontario government resources to adequately respond and remove wild pig sounders in Kawartha Lakes, Council will consider a move to the highest Action Plan Response Level, and may undertake the purchase of removal equipment for whole-sounder removal, along with possible appointment of staff as Wildlife Agents.

Action Plan Response Levels

- **Level 1 Response** - Passive information sharing, and public awareness through:
 - Creation of a Wild Pig page on the municipal website;
 - Sharing of social media posts; and
 - Distributing awareness flyers at public and producer events.
- **Level 2 Response** – Active information sharing, producer education and public awareness through:
 - Enhanced Level 1 Response activities; and
 - Hosting information meetings, webinars and/or workshops as part of the established agriculture economic development program.
- **Level 3 Response** – Active participation in protection of agricultural lands and the natural environment through:
 - Level 2 Response activities;
 - Consider appointment of staff as Wildlife Agents; and
 - Consider the purchase of removal equipment for whole-sounder removal, appointment of staff as Wildlife Agents.

Note that all Levels include monitoring of sighting status. A move from Level 1 to Level 2 Response may be determined by staff, whereas a decision to move from Level 2 to Level 3 Response must be made by Council.