

Feral Goat

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Capra hircus

Description

- A feral goat is a domesticated goat that has gone wild.
- Historically the occurrence of feral goats, brought to the island in 1531 as a source of meat for passing ships, led to island-wide destruction of many plants, including the extinction of some endemic species



A feral goat
Photo: kalalautrail.com

Distribution

- Feral goats on the island were hunted down in the 1960's. Recently, in 2008, two feral goats were seen on Sandy Bay Barn, six months later their numbers had increased to five.

Habitat

- They are found in remote and coastal areas of the island

Impact

- They impact negatively on any growing plants by destroying any vegetation within their range and prevent new plants growing by nipping off seedlings

Actions

- If you see a goat out in the wild, then report it to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department or the Invasive Species Officer
- If domestic goats are kept at home, then make sure they are tethered appropriately so that the chances of them becoming wild are none!



Feral Goats seen at Sandy Bay Barn
Photo: Andrew Darlow