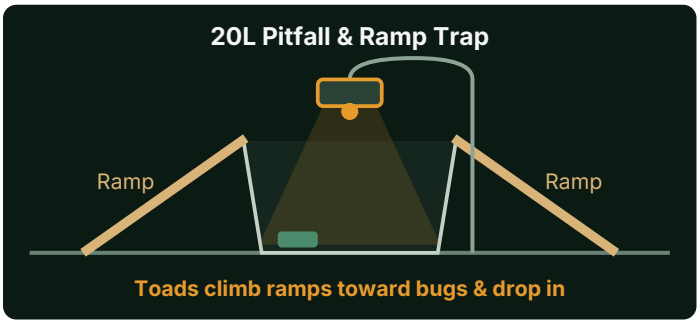
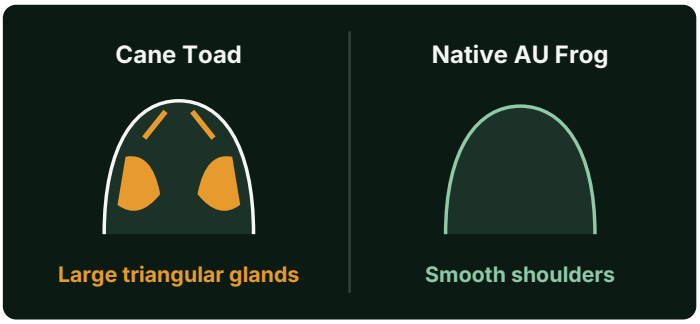
AUSTRALIA DIY BLUEPRINT & PHOTO SPECIES GUIDE (A4 METRIC)

DIY Pitfall & Ramp Toad Trap + Native Frog Photo ID

Page 1: 20L pitfall and ramp bucket trap cut-list and RSPCA rules. Page 2: Full-colour photos of Cane Toads vs native Australian lookalikes.





Hardware aisle cut list (per trap)

- ☐ 1x 20L to 25L smooth-walled dark bucket (35 to 40 cm tall) + daylight lid
- ☐ 2x flat timber or PVC ramp planks (50 to 60 cm long)
- ☐ 1x waterproof solar UV bug lamp + metal garden shepherd's hook
- ☐ 1x damp kitchen sponge (native frog hydration)
- ☐ Nitrile gloves + long grabber tongs

6-step pitfall & ramp bucket assembly

1. **Choose a tall smooth-walled bucket:** Use a 35 to 40 cm dark bucket so trapped cane toads cannot grip the walls or jump out.
2. **Drill eight 5 mm floor drains** so sudden summer storms empty cleanly without drowning accidental native frogs.
3. **Sink flush or add two flat ramps:** Bury flush in soil along a fence, or lean two wide wooden ramps gently up to the open rim.
4. **Hang the solar UV lamp overhead:** Suspend it 20 cm above the open bucket from a garden hook so beetles fall inside.
5. **Add a damp sponge** in one corner so any accidental native frog stays cool and hydrated until sunrise.
6. **Inspect every dawn & lid by day:** Release native frogs immediately and clip the lid shut in daylight to keep dogs out.

RSPCA approved humane disposal (confirmed cane toads only)

- **Registered anaesthetic spray:** HopStop or Amgrow Croaked applied strictly per label directions.
- **Two-stage cool-then-freeze:** Refrigerate confirmed cane toads at 4 C for at least 12 hours until motionless, then freeze at -18 C for 24+ hours.
- **Never use cruel methods:** Never spray Dettol, bleach, salt, or methylated spirits, never freeze warm active toads directly, and never use blunt strikes.

See Page 2 before touching any catch: Full-colour photographs comparing invasive Cane Toads against Australia's four most commonly mistaken native frogs.

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Visual Species Guide: Invasive Cane Toad vs Native Australian Frogs

Confirm ALL FIVE Cane Toad traits before taking action: huge triangular parotoid venom glands, hard M-shaped bony snout ridges, dry warty skin, no sticky toe pads, and upright posture.

INVASIVE TARGET: Cane Toad (Rhinella marina)



Side view: Massive triangular parotoid venom gland behind ear drum, dry warty brown-olive skin.



Head-on view: Prominent hard bony M-shaped ridge running from snout over both eyes; upright stance.

PROTECTED NATIVE LOOKALIKES: Leave Undisturbed



Ornate Burrowing Frog
Why it looks similar: Plump brown ground frog on damp lawns after rain.
How to tell it apart: Zero triangular shoulder glands; moist mottled back, no bony snout ridges.



Eastern Banjo Frog (Pobblebonk)
Why it looks similar: Heavy-bodied ground dweller active after rain.
How to tell it apart: Smooth rounded snout with no bony ridges; distinct pale stripe along upper lip.



Great Barred Frog
Why it looks similar: Large brown ground body overlapping adult cane toad size.
How to tell it apart: Bold dark cross-bars on hind legs, smooth skin, zero swollen shoulder glands.



Australian Green Tree Frog
Why it looks similar: Shifts olive-brown at night near warm porch lights.
How to tell it apart: Large sticky rounded suction pads on every toe; climbs glass and walls easily.

Photo credits (Wikimedia Commons): Cane Toad side Greg Schechter (CC BY 2.0), front C. Bruck (CC BY-SA 4.0); Ornate Burrowing Frog Graham Wise (CC BY 2.0); Eastern Banjo Frog Andrew Allen (CC BY 4.0); Great Barred Frog Greg Tasney (CC BY-SA 4.0); Green Tree Frog LiquidGhoul (Public domain).

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