

Small Farms Network - Capital Region

How to use the wildlife camera

There is an [8-minute installation how-to video](#) available to watch on our YouTube Chanel.

Loan Camera Installation Essentials:

- Do not install the Small Farms Network - Capital Region wildlife camera above chest height, and only install the camera while standing on the ground.
- Only install the wildlife camera by securing it firmly using the attached strap and clasp, around a stable feature such as a tree, fence post or star picket.
- Do not install the wildlife camera near a public road, public foot path or public open space. Only install the wildlife camera on private property, and not within sight of people who are not residents of your property.

Preparing to install the camera:

- Ensure the camera is turned off.
- Ensure the door of the camera **closed and locked**, otherwise the hinge may be damaged.
- Ensure the battery tray is locked in.

To install the camera:

- Select an installation location such as a tree, fence post or star picket.
- Pull the strap through the back of the camera so that the clasp is as close to the camera as possible.
- Hold the top of the camera and strap clasp with your left hand, and feed the end of strap through the clasp with your right hand, until the camera stays in place.
- Use short sticks of appropriate thicknesses inserted at the back of the camera, to angle the camera up or down - so that the camera lens is looking straight at the shoulders/chest of the target species (size) at a distance of 5approximately m from the camera.
- Install the camera a little higher, or at the same height as the target species to ensure the best angle for good footage capture.
- Avoid installing the camera so that it is looking at long grass, dangling leaves or shrubs that flap in the wind - if possible. This will set the camera off on windy days, and the card will fill up quickly. If this is your only option, check and erase the footage daily.

How long to install the camera for in one place?

- For a two week camera loan, install the camera at a new location every 4 - 7 days, to obtain the information about the feral predator behaviours that you require. Same for wildlife surveys.
- For a longer camera loan (where availability permits), install the camera at a new location every 7 days.
- For feral predator monitoring, you should see a regularly visiting feral predator in the camera footage every night or most nights. If an animal is only seen once in 7 days, it may not be a regular visitor for your property. For the purposes of planning a control program.

To view the footage:

- Push on the SD card in the camera for it to pop out.
- View or download the SD card footage using an SD card reader.
- Still images are recorded as .jpg files, movies are recorded as .mp4 files. Both can be viewed without needing special software.
- Before returning the SD card back to the wildlife camera, erase the images using your computer. Otherwise the SD card may stop recording images if it runs out of space.

To uninstall the camera (to move to a new location, to return):

- Turn the camera off, to preserve battery life.
- Close the front door to prevent damage to the hinge.
- Release the strap clasp, to remove the camera from the installation location.