

Intensive Pest Animal Management

Traps

June 2010

Why use a trap instead of a poison?

Advantages

- Traps are a very effective control method for small areas, domestic situations or where use of toxins might endanger pets or livestock.
- Results are visible and you'll know the sex or age of animals caught.
- In the case of mustelids (stoats, weasels & ferrets), traps are currently the only effective direct control method.
- Eliminates risk of secondary poisoning to pets.

Disadvantages

- Labour intensive compared to laying poison, so very difficult to achieve good consistent coverage over large areas.
- Dealing with killing or disposing of dead animals isn't a nice job.
- You may need to bury dead animals.
- Kill traps don't differentiate between pests and pets, so traps must be pet proof when set.

Live capture or kill trap?

- Only choose live capture traps if you can definitely check them within 12 hours of sunrise the day after setting (this is a legal requirement).
- Will you be capable of killing the animal humanely? (A blow to the head followed by severance of the carotid artery, or shot with rifle).
- Will live capture traps be too bulky to carry to position if there is no vehicle access?
- Live capture traps are good for areas where pet or non-target by-catch may be an issue.

NB: Use cage traps only for live capture. Leg hold traps are being phased out and are mainly suitable for specialised contractor use.

Recommended kill traps ¹(indicative costs are current at 1.6.10)

Possums

Lure – fruit, anything sweet, add cinnamon or aniseed for extra attraction

Possum Master (<http://www.possummaster.co.nz>,
<http://www.nopests.co.nz>)

- Can be ground set with face plate or tree set
- Easy to set
- Good alternative to Timms
- \$45 - 47



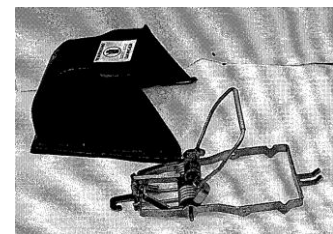
Timms (various suppliers – hardware stores, farm supply stores, some garden centres, ARC reception, [Operation Possum Blitz \(Titirangi\)](#))

- Easy to set
- Lightweight but bulky
- \$45 - \$60



Set-n-Forget (Pest-Tech Ltd, (03) 3243163)

- Use possum cover
- Tree/raised set only to avoid non target catch
- Requires use of setting tool
- Small lightweight trap
- \$32



Warrior II (<http://www.connovation.co.nz>)

- Best used in permanent raised set on tree
- Requires setting tool
- A bit scary to set at first
- Fiddly to bait.
- \$35



¹ Ragg J, Rohloff B, Glover K, Walker R and Bayley J, 2007. Possum and ferret traps "A report to inform and advise users of trapping products to ensure appropriate product selection and use". Prepared for the Animals Health Board, Wellington.

Rats

Lure – peanut butter, fruit, cheese, meat, most foods!

NB All rat traps below will operate most effectively when secured to a hard surface

For setting and baiting instructions for rat traps, click [here](#)

E-snap trap (<http://www.nopests.co.nz>, <http://www.pestrid.co.nz>)

- Very easy to set
- Handy separate receptacle for bait
- Must be used under a cover when outdoors
- Springs may last longer than T-Rex especially in coastal conditions
- \$10 – 15



T Rex snap trap (<http://www.nopests.co.nz>, <http://www.philproof.co.nz>)

- Serrated jaws may stop escape of large rats
- Very easy to set
- Handy separate receptacle for bait
- Must be used under a cover when outdoors
- \$11



Victor Professional snap trap (widely available)

- Fairly easy to set
- Wooden base will last longer if oiled prior to use
- Must be used under a cover when outdoors
- Large rats may be able to escape
- \$6 – 10



Kamate rat trap (<http://www.kamatetraps.com>)

- Fairly easy to set with built in safety catch
- Must be used under a cover when outdoors
- Constructed of very durable material
- Suitable for use on boats or where any movement or jarring action occurs
- \$20



Mustelids and rats

Lure – dried rabbit meat, long life lure

Henry trap (<http://www.goodnature.co.nz>, <http://www.nopests.co.nz>)

- A self setting trap that will reset 12 times on one gas canister
- Handy for remote areas or when frequent checking not possible
- Parts easily replaceable
- Lightweight
- \$180



Mustelids & Hedgehogs

Lure – fresh or dried rabbit meat, egg, fish, chicken necks, chocolate

Doc 200 or 250 (for ferrets) (<http://www.predatortraps.com>, haines.pallets@paradise.net.nz, spearco67@yahoo.co.nz)

- Humane
- Fairly easy to set – can purchase separate setting tool
- Suitable for permanent positions
- Heavy to carry to position without vehicle access
- Low by-catch risk, also available as kiwi & weka safe
- \$50 (DOC 200 trap & tunnel single set) \$70 (DOC 250 trap & tunnel single set)



NB We no longer recommend the purchasing of Fenn traps as these traps have failed NAWAC (animal welfare) testing.
We also don't recommend live capture traps for mustelids as these pests are very ferocious and very difficult to remove from traps.

Recommended live capture cage traps

Pest Management Services <http://www.nopests.co.nz> and various farming stores supply a range of cage traps. These traps are activated by either a baited hook or treadle.

- Must be checked within 12 hours of sunrise the day after setting (this is a legal requirement).
- Suitable for rabbits and possums
- Treadle traps usually work best
- \$80 - \$200



Magpie trap (Available for loan from ARC or purchase <http://www.nopests.co.nz>,
<http://www.connovation.co.nz>)

- Must be checked within 12 hours of sunrise the day after setting (this is a legal requirement).
- Kill birds out of sight of others
- Lure – dog roll, dripping, cheese – make a trail in to trap
- Also suitable for rabbits
- \$454

