

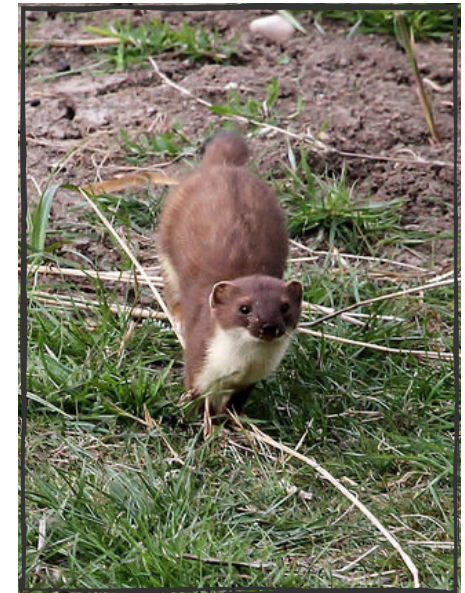
PREDATOR BLITZ - TRAINING 101

Hedgehog and Mustelids

WHY CONTROL HEDGEHOGS OR MUSTELIDS?

Hedgehogs are rare in Great Britain, however they are a stranger and pest animal to New Zealand's bush and wildlife. They easily kill ground nesting birds like the kiwi or spotless crane, eat bird eggs, our native lizards and insects. They are chicken egg thieves, can host Tuberculosis and are often covered in fleas or carry ringworm.

Mustelids (including the Ferret, Stoat and Weasel) are top predators in New Zealand. They easily kill native birds, eggs, lizards and invertebrates. Stoats need to eat 1/3rd of their body weight each day! If we want our native species and taonga to survive and flourish, consider controlling these species at home wherever they are detected.



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HOW TO CONTROL HEDGEHOGS AND MUSTELIDS EFFECTIVELY

The most effective and efficient way to control predators, is to '**Pulse**' (conduct predator control at intervals) – **FOUR TIMES a year**.

- You can 'pulse' control at the same time as your usual rodent control (i.e February, April, August and November – these months match the availability of resources and breeding times for native bird life).
- Only put out a trap when you have seen, heard or detected (using monitoring chew cards for example) the pests themselves. In a halo context you may be able to borrow the appropriate trap when you discover the need, or purchase your own to constantly protect your property and surrounding area.

~ DOC traps are available to borrow from the PFK toolshed, or you can purchase your own from the Glenfield local board service center at \$40each. Goodnature A24 self resetting traps are also for sale at PFK.



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TRAPPING

We recommend mechanical trapping within Kaipatiki. We don't use bait for hedgehogs or mustelids. **DOC 150's** are used for weasels, **DOC 200's** for hedgehog and stoats (they have the bushy black tail) and **DOC 250's** for ferrets. Sometimes Timms traps and Goodnature Self-resetting **A24** traps can also unintentionally catch hedgehogs and stoats. Traps are checked at a minimum of weekly during your pulse, however more frequently is good and more pleasant, smellwise, if you do catch something.

All DOC traps need to be screwed shut when set, as they pose the greatest risk of crushing injuries and should never be touched by children without supervision. At Pest Free Kaipatiki, we won't release a trap to you without a safety demonstration on how to safely and effectively use it.



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HARDWARE

- **Spacing:** In general one trap per 20 hectare is a good rule for mustelids due to their wide home range. You can club together with one or two neighbours to purchase and share one too. Hedgehog have smaller home ranges of about 1.4kms so more traps can be used.
- **Trap location:** Locate traps for Mustelids along stream edges, ridges, fence lines, animal runs or near chicken coops, near fallen logs or trees and open pasture. Locate along dry hillsides, sandy areas and near wood piles for hedgehog.
- **Lure:** Peanut butter, eggs or meat for Hedgehog. Egg, fresh or salted rabbit or long life Erayz blocks for Mustelids.

Don't forget to
log your catches
or bait take on
the free app



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PUTTING DOWN LIVE PEST ANIMALS

DOC 150's and 200's are designed as kill traps. If however a control tool fails and the animal is caught but not dead, then that animal needs to be humanely destroyed as quickly as possible. If you are not confident in destroying live animals humanely, then we recommend you contact either a Pest Free Kaipatiki Possum Response team (email enquiries@pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz for more information), a confident neighbor or your local vet.

First, render the animal insensible (unconscious) usually through stunning with a blow to the head, followed by death immediately. For hedgehog, you will need to release the mis-caught hedgehog first from the trap (ideally get help from a second person for this). A blow with a hammer will render it unconscious first, followed by a second more accurate blow to make sure the creature was killed (do this on a sturdy surface such as a log). Finally, cut the throat to ENSURE the animal has died – this is recommended by the Council and SPCA.

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DISPOSAL

To dispose of dead bodies, either dig a hole in the garden and bury it deeply or double wrap it in newspaper, seal in a plastic bag tying a firm knot and dispose of in your general rubbish collection.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Try not to contaminate your box with strong chemicals or pet urine – these odours can badly affect catch rates. Use gloves.
- Make sure at the entrance no sharp edges of wire are present.
- Make sure the visiting animal will line up with the trap plate for a cleaner catch.
- If using an egg as lure, prick (with a pin) the top of the egg – to let the smell out – making sure the hole is upwards! Farm eggs (rather than washed store bought eggs) are more appealing.
- Make sure your traps 'Spring-off' weight (the weight that triggers the trap) is sufficient. Care needs to be taken so attend training to do this or ask your street coordinator to make the appropriate modification. The setting should be at 80g and weasels require a smaller DOC150.
- If you catch a stoat, let your street coordinator know asap and if possible KEEP the stoat. If it can be promptly frozen, they are useful to 'wipe against the DOC trap' as the smell later attracts more mustelids.
- Keep traps out of direct sunlight to help fresh lures last longer (whereas the opposite might last with dry lure).
- Tilt your tunnel slightly so liquid from any bait runs out of the tunnel not around the trap to avoid corrosion.

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

For you and your family:

- Keep fingers clear from the trap until you are certain it is unset and always lock your trap by screwing down the corner which can swivel. Always check the trap is unset before handling it. If in doubt, use an object to triple check.
- Teach children early on to respect traps and do not let them interact with it without supervision.

For pets:

- Non-target animals cannot access the trap due to the size of the entrance hole, and it being locked.

[Link to extended health and safety sheet.](#)