

RAT TRAPPING WITH PFK



Welcome to the Pest Free Kaipātiki Restoration Society!

If you have borrowed a free trap or bait station from PFK, in return, we ask that you record your visits in Trap.NZ - we use Trap.NZ for collecting pest animal data. You can use this to record and view all your predator control activity.

Rodents carry disease and are public nuisances in our ceilings, compost, homes and backyards. They are also key predators of our native flora and fauna. They hunt birds, eggs, lizards and invertebrates and consume massive amounts of seed which make up the next generation of forest. Rats are prevalent in Kaipātiki.	we can make a huge impact on predators across the landscape. nant female rat can result in 15,000 cendants in a single year – so any a great contribution – thank you. volunteer to trap as a team in a ace or reserve, but also in a typical uation – by installing one or two your property.

HOW TO CONTROL RODENTS EFFECTIVELY

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

- You can use this method with mechanical rat traps, but you can also trap consistently throughout the year.
- Pulse in February, April, August and November these months match the availability of resources and breeding times for both rats and native bird life.
- Trapping pulses last 4 weeks in total, you can then stop until the next pulse (chart below).
- During a pulse, you will be using either a Wooden Box (pictured below left) and T-rex snap trap (below middle),or Modified victor (below right) for big ship rats. Larger DOC traps also work for rats.
- Use peanut butter, chocolate or seeds as a lure for your trap. Set the trap inside the box, roughly around the middle of the trap. Check every 1-3 days in the first week or two of the pulse. You can check less frequently after that. If you find your lure disappearing, but rat traps not being triggered mice or slugs/snails may be taking your lure. Put out smaller mouse traps for a short period of time, try a longer life lure cube, and/or pop down some slug poison around the trap.



	Trapping Program for Rodents																																															
Month	ł	Au	gus	t September				ber	0	October			November			ər	December			ər	January			February			March				April				May				June			July						
Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Check																																																

TIPS AND TRICKS

- **Spacing:** Typically one trap per urban property is sufficient, or approximately every 50 meters along a line for a larger property. On massive properties, place them 50m along a line, with each line being 100m apart.
- **Pre-feeding with mechanical traps:** Rats are ware of new food sources and objects. Before actually setting your trap the first time, put out a little lure (eg. peanut butter) in the entrance of the trap and on top of the unset trap inside the tunnel. Check the trap every day, replenishing the lure if taken. Finally after a week of doing this, set the trap as normal. Do this at least the very first time traps go out, but ideally every time the trap tunnel is moved or a new trap is introduced.
- Location for trap: Use chew cards or monitoring tunnels to find where pests are present. Place traps along ridges, stream banks, coastal edges and within backyards – along fence lines and areas where there is security for a rodent (i.e a garden shed) or pile of debris. Sometimes rodents may not enter a trap if other handy food sources are available, therefore ensure composts or fallen fruit are cleaned up regularly.
- **Disposal:** Rat carcasses can be wrapped in newspaper, a plastic bag and disposed of in your general rubbish (landfill), or buried deeply in the garden.
- Health and Safety: Mechanical traps can cause bruising and larger DOC traps can cause more serious damage if not managed carefully. Proceed with care and attention when setting and unsetting your traps, and do not be distracted. Wear gloves and ensure you wash your hands thoroughly after interacting with the trap or any carcases. For all rat trap types, please remember to lure the trap before you set it. When placing the trap inside the wooden tunnel, place it towards the back and ensure it does not slide forwards where children, pets or by-catch could access the snap trap.





Trap example along a boundary that doesn't wobble & the snap trap far away from the entrance hole for safety.

Trap.nz Instructions:

- Register, join a PFK project, then add a trap. Once you have added your rat trap to trap.nz using our trap.nz guide, you will need to start recording visits.
- Click or tap on your trap on the map. Once open, fill in the details. It doesn't matter if you haven't caught anything, or even if the lure hasn't been taken, every visit must be recorded. There are options available.
- Add notes or a photo if necessary.
- Press and hold on the "SAVE" button to save your visit record.

Initial set	If you haven't caught anything, remember to
Removed for Repair	select one of these options!
Sprung	If you have caught
Still set, bait OK	something, where it says "Species", select your
Still set, bait bad	caught animal. Usually this
Still set, bait missing	will be a rat.
Trap Replaced	Ship rats have a tail that is longer than it's body, while
Trap gone	a Norway rat will have a body that is longer than
Trap interfered with	it's tail.



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