

Trapping tips and tricks

Useful resources

<https://predatorfreenz.org/resources/trapping-best-practice/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/pf2050/pf2050-trapping-guide.pdf>

Trap type

Common types of traps you are likely to encounter:

- Victor professional (best for ship rats, mustellids if you are very lucky; comes with a hood that is what makes this trap humane and prevents bird bycatch)
- DOC 200 (best for ship and norway rats, mustellids, hedgehogs)
- GoodNature A24 traps (rats, mustellids)

Traps have a cover and a baffle that are critically important. These prevent other animals from getting trapped, prevent injury to people, and limit the chance of birds getting in.

DOC200 requires calibration, quite a heavy duty trap and requires confidence and experience.

Good natures are set and forget, but efficacy is high for ~ 3 days and declines after that.

Trap placement

- Look for animal tracks/paths, setting a trap on an existing highway is a great idea
- Vegetation edges are also good/sides of buildings
- Near compost!
- One to two per household is a great target for normal sized blocks. One every 50m or so is a good rule of thumb.
- Get your neighbours on board, they are most effective when done across a wider landscape. Talk to owners of vacant land and see if they will allow you to set traps there.
- Make sure you mark the location!
- Anchor victor professional traps to the ground if it has a flimsy cover, aim for a flat site to avoid compromising trap set off.
- Avoid super public locations unless you want it pinched
- You can go crazy with things like hazing of the entry... everyone develops their own way!

Baiting

- Victors: chocolate, peanut butter
- DOC 200: egg, rabbit, cat food
- Other options available through GoodNature.
- Consider smearing smells around to attract animals in
- Consider placing a mouse trap behind victors to reduce mouse bycatch in the key trap
- Rebait regularly, but not too often! 3-7 days is good, chocolate can last a couple weeks if the insects don't get to it

Clearing and cleaning

- You can check as often as you like by looking in, but try not to fiddle with it every day.

- Wear gloves to clear out a kill, and put it in a bag in the rubbish (can be buried but go reasonably deep)
- **Record and report your trap catch!**
- Maintenance for both Victors and DOC200s, wipe clean if it looks like something might interfere with action.
- Longer term, wire brush to rub off rust if it is present on victors (shouldnt be necessary on DOC 200s), but consider trap replacement at this point. A quick wipe down with oil like you would with your cast iron pan can improve longevity.
- **Don't** wash traps off after a catch, the smell often makes a trap more effective.

Other considerations

- Consider baiting but not setting your trap for a week. Gets animals keyed in.
- The question of compost... consider a tumbler or worm farm, wire mesh can help prevent rat entry to ordinary bins