

Animal Pest Information

The Governors Bay Landcare group organised a community meeting on Controlling Mustelids and Rodents for Conservation in New Zealand on Tuesday 9 September. Dr Craig Gillies, Animal Predator Ecologist from DoC, Hamilton was the speaker. Craig's Powerpoint presentation is available as a separate document.: DOC DM - 341158 Governors Bay talk rods & mustelids 2008.pdf

The information on this page includes some of the information from Craig's talk and suggested web and book resources.

Plan:

First: decide what you want to protect. In Governors Bay the key birds to protect are: kereru, bellbird, fantails, grey warbler, shining cuckoo.

To increase the native bird population in Governors Bay, target rats & possums at least until late summer so chicks have a chance to survive.

Second: determine what pests are in the area being controlled.

- Identify pest by using tracking tunnels, or ask for help from Governors Bay Landcare group.
- If you have a large block of land develop a pest management plan, vary control methods & bait over time.
- For residential properties use appropriate methods - eg Snap traps (old fashioned mouse/rat trap). Peanut butter & chocolate buttons make good bait. Position traps so they will not harm children & pets.

Third: Monitor outcomes eg bird count, tracking tunnels for remaining pests.



Pests:

Possums are a significant pest in the Governors Bay area they browse trees and eat birds eggs. Control using Timms traps or cage traps. Use peanut butter on a piece of apple.

If poisoning is preferred consider Kiwicare product: Possums Cholecalciferol Gel Bait

Rats & mice. Rats eat bird eggs and chicks. Mice are preyed on by stoats so low numbers will deter stoats, they compete for lizard food. Control using Snap traps or set up bait stations. Bait should be secured so that rats and mice can't take it away and store it. Consider the range of bait and stations offered by Pest Control Research, or other similar products.



Mustelids: stoats, ferrets, weasels. Stoats are killers. They are clever and hard to catch. Trapping is recommended using DoC Series traps. The best lure to use for stoats is fresh rabbit meat.

Hedgehogs are also a pest - they eat useful insects. If they are caught in traps set for other pests this will help to reduce the number of predators in the area.

Products:

DoC series traps : www.connovation.co.nz:

Kiwicare: www.kiwicare.co.nz

Tracking tunnels, bait stations & bait for rats & mice: www.pestcontrolresearch.co.nz

Good information:

Best Practice and standard methods, National Possum Control Agencies: www.npca.org.nz

Internet forum on animal pests: www.wildlifemanagement.net.nz

Highly recommended pest information: www.sanctuariesnz.org

Books:

The Handbook of New Zealand Mammals, edited by Carolyn M King

The Natural History of Weasels and Stoats: Ecology, behavior, and management. C M King & R A Powell. 2007

Bird Safe CD: Contact Tony Edney 329 9868 or email: m.boyd@ext.canterbury.ac.nz

General Contact: Sally Tripp, 329 9752 or email: sally.tripp@xtra.co.nz