

# TRAP SETTING GUIDELINES

There are a wide variety of traps to use, however it's important to ensure the traps we choose are humane.

Several organisations carry out testing on traps according to guidelines set up by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

- View the Bionet website for a comprehensive list of traps that have met NAWAC guidelines:  
<https://www.bionet.nz/rules/performance-traps/>
- See the Manaaki Whenua website for more information about trap testing and the NAWAC guidelines:  
<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/plants-animals-fungi/animals/vertebrate-pests/traps>
- See the Predator Free NZ Trapping best practice guide for more information  
<https://predatorfreenz.org/resources/trapping-best-practice/>
- See the Department of Conservation (DOC) practical guide to trapping for comprehensive information on best practice trapping  
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050/toolkit-predator-free-2050/practical-guide-to-trapping/>

# TRAPPING RATS AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL

## Equipment

The rat species present in your area determines what traps to use. Traps currently meeting NAWAC guidelines for ship rats include the T-Rex/Tomcat, Victor professional, Modified Victor snapback, DOC 200 and the Goodnature A24 Rat & Stoat Trap. The Modified Victor snapback and DOC 200 also meet the guidelines for Norway rats and stoats. The Victor traps, DOC 200 and T-Rex/Tomcat need to be housed in a trap tunnel to keep out non target species. If you don't want to handle dead rats, try the Goodnature A24 Rat and Stoat trap. See the Bionet website for a comprehensive and up-to-date list of trap performance in welfare testing.



The following links show you how to use some of the different traps.

- Modified Victor snapback  
<https://youtu.be/05htuGlq98U>
- T-Rex/Tomcat  
<https://predatorfreenz.org/toolkits/kids-schools-toolkit/school-resources/predator-free-school-guidelines/t-rex-rat-trap-in-a-tunnel/>
- Victor Professional  
<https://youtu.be/OxkxWnxwEho>

## Where should I put my rat traps?

Set up 2–3 rat traps in your backyard and make sure they are placed inside trap tunnels. Put them on a flat surface near walls/compost or under cover. If you aren't getting results, try a different spot.

## When should I check my traps?

Preferably daily until you're getting results and the catch rate goes down, then check every 2-3 weeks. The more rats in the area, the more checks you'll need to do.

## Top safety tips

- Always wear gloves when handling your trap or catches.
- Bait the trap before you set it.
- After setting the Victor or T-Rex/Tomcat trap, slide the trap into the tunnel BAIT END FIRST
- Ensure the trap is close to the GATE END so birds can't reach it through the 'tunnel opening'
- Ensure the mesh gate is closed at all times
- DOC200s have a very powerful trap mechanism. Make sure you have thoroughly viewed and followed the online instructional videos and/or received training from a professional

## Disposal

Dead animals can be buried in the garden or bagged and placed in household rubbish.

## Lures/bait

Use some peanut butter and refresh this often. Make sure to use gloves to not leave any human smell behind. If students are allergic to peanuts, or you wish to trial other lures, you can use Nutella (contains hazelnuts), cinnamon rolled cheese, chocolate, Goodnature rat lure, or walnut (can induce severe reactions).

# TRAPPING RATS IN THE BUSH

## Equipment

The rat species present in your area determines what traps to use. Traps currently meeting NAWAC guidelines for ship rats include the T-Rex/Tomcat, Victor professional, Modified Victor snapback, DOC 200 and Goodnature A24 Rat & Stoat trap. The Modified Victor snapback and DOC 200 also meet the guidelines for Norway rats and stoats. The Victor traps, DOC 200 and T-Rex/Tomcat need to be housed in a trap tunnel to keep out non target species. If you don't want to handle dead rats, try the Goodnature A24 Rat & Stoat trap. See the Bionet website for a comprehensive and up-to-date list of trap performance in welfare testing.



The following links show you how to use some of the different traps.

- Modified Victor snapback  
<https://youtu.be/05htuG1q98U>
- T-Rex/Tomcat  
<https://predatorfreenz.org/toolkits/kids-schools-toolkit/school-resources/predator-free-school-guidelines/t-rex-rat-trap-in-a-tunnel/>
- Victor Professional  
<https://youtu.be/OxkxWnxwEho>

## Where should I put my rat traps?

- Set them on lines 100m apart with a trap every 50m (100x50m) or closer in areas with a large number of rats
- Place traps inside tunnels
- Place a number on each trap and keep track of how many you've set, when and where

## When should I check my traps?

Preferably daily until you're getting results and the catch rate goes down, then check every 2-3 weeks. The more rats in the area, the more checks you'll need to do. A24s need to be checked monthly or to the manufacturer's specifications.

## Top safety tips

- Always wear gloves when handling your trap or catches
- Bait the trap before you set it
- After setting the Victor or T-Rex/Tomcat trap, slide the trap into the tunnel BAIT END FIRST
- Ensure the trap is close to the GATE END so birds can't reach it through the 'tunnel opening'
- Ensure the mesh gate is closed at all times
- DOC200s have a very powerful trap mechanism. Make sure you have thoroughly viewed and followed the online instructional videos and/or received training from a professional

## Lures/bait

Use some peanut butter and refresh this often. Make sure to use gloves to not leave any human smell behind. If students are allergic to peanuts, or you wish to trial other lures, you can use Nutella (contains hazelnuts), cinnamon rolled cheese, chocolate, Goodnature rat lure, or walnut (can induce severe reactions).

# TRAPPING STOATS AND HEDGEHOGS

## Equipment

Traps that meet the NAWAC guidelines for stoats include the Modified Victor snapback, DOC 200, and Goodnature A24 Rat & Stoat trap. The only traps to date that meet guidelines for hedgehogs are the DOC150, DOC200 and DOC250. See the Bionet website for a comprehensive and up-to-date list of trap performance in welfare testing. The following links show you how to use some of the different traps.

- DOC 200 trap  
<https://youtu.be/kABskKb1NzE>
- Modified Victor snapback  
<https://youtu.be/05htuGlg98U>



## Where should I put my traps?

Set the traps along the natural lie of the land; ridges, waterways, tracks and road edges are all great places. Set them on lines about 1km apart (or 100m for rats) with a trap every 100m (1km x 100m for stoats, 100m x 100m for rats). Put a number on each trap and keep track of how many you've set, and markers on trees can help you locate traps in the bush.

## When should I check my traps?

- Traps should be left out and baited permanently.
- Check them about once a month. At certain times of the year catch rates go up and more frequent checks will be beneficial. For example, late summer/autumn stoats are more vulnerable to trapping as other food sources dwindle.
- Set and bait/lure traps during each check and make sure the traps are still working.
- Maintenance of traps is critical.

## Top safety tips

- DOC200s have a very powerful trap mechanism. Make sure you have thoroughly viewed and followed the online instructional videos and/or received training from a professional.
- Make sure you always wear gloves when handling your trap or catches.
- Make sure the lid is screwed down at all times so that children and pets can't access the trap.
- When you change the bait make sure you use a safety clip or 'unset' the trap.

## Disposal

Dead animals can be buried in the garden or bagged and placed in household rubbish.

## Lures/bait

- For stoats fresh rabbit, hare, possum, Erayz, salted rabbit, freeze-dried rabbit and/or fresh hen eggs
- For hedgehogs use an egg.
- For rats use peanut butter (you can place it in a milk bottle top).
- Lures should be changed regularly to keep them fresh (exactly when and how often will depend on where the traps are) and disposed of away from the trap.