

## **Pest Free Warkworth – Helpful hints when trapping pests**

We have compiled below a list of various pieces of advice received from a wide range of very experienced trappers. These include Cam Speedy of Predator Free NZ, Todd Hamilton of Kiwis for Kiwi and experienced regional park rangers and contract pest controllers. The advice is not exhaustive as improving the effectiveness of a trap is an ongoing science and art form.

And always make use of the tremendous depth and breadth of information available from organisations such as:

- Predator Free NZ (<https://predatorfreenz.org/>)
- DOC (<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/>)
- Pest Free Auckland (<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/environment/plants-animals/pests-weeds/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Pest Free Kaipātiki (<https://www.pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz/predatorcontrol>)
- And many others!

### **1. But first - placing and servicing traps. Be safe!**

For many starting trapping for the first time it is helpful to go through a set and safe process which will be the same for any type of trap. Here is a suggested method of servicing traps using a mnemonic **S T T S**.

#### **S – Safe**

Ensure the trap is **safe** before you service it. **Before you place your hands inside** the trap to clean and bait make sure you have set the trap off either by tripping it with a of piece of hose or sock or setting the trap off manually.

Don't damage the trap by dry firing it. Therefore to set a trap off:

1. For a DOC 200, Victor rat trap and Envirottools minimalist trap use a piece of hose or something similar to trip the trap; and
2. For a Trapinator or Flipping Timmy follow good practice techniques set out in the following YouTube references when releasing the arm.

## **T – Think**

**Think** like the animal you are targeting. Is there a possum run or small animal trail nearby? Will you intersect the run/trail with the trap or if the trap close by how do you 'tell' the pest about your trap? Have the possums targeted a tree?

For mustelids is there a bridge or culvert they need to cross? Can you set the trap on a track on a ridge as mustelids love ridges so they can 'smell' their prey when the wind blows up to the ridge?

Wild animals would prefer to follow some form of track rather than waste their energy bush crashing. How about somewhere along a fence line at the interface between the bush/forest and pasture? Do warm blooded mammals prefer the north or south side?

Try to turn the predator's mind and so their motivation is 'food' not 'fear' and your trap provides that food.

## **T – Talk**

**Arrange your trap and enhance the trap surrounds to talk** the predators to your trap. Make your trap predator friendly by smearing bait smells inside and outside the trap.

Make sure there are no spikes left over from cutting holes in the wire netting at the entrance and baffle of the DOC. Will the DOC trap trigger at 70 - 80gs to catch a weasel, the world's smallest carnivore? Is the entrance hole and baffle about 60mm square?

What type of bait does the predator favour? Have you considered using the 'Hansel and Gretel' technique to lead a predator into the trap? Is the trap stable so as not to spook the predator when they enter it or jump on the ramp leading to the trap?

Will the bait go 'off' within 3 days? Maybe use long life bait (such as long-life fish bait) as bait inside the trap but smear fresh fish (such as pilchards and their gut) outside and leading to the trap. Do not dispose of your salted rabbit or long-life bait but keep

it with you and dispose of with your rubbish. If mustelids taste salted rabbit that bait may never be attractive.

Do you need to protect the bait in the DOC 200 or Flipping Timmy from mice by placing a bait station nearby? Such protection ensures the bait remains targeting the desired species for as long as possible.

Talk to the predators outside and leading to the trap so they are switched onto your bait at the trap entrance.

### **S – Set**

**Set** the trap.

**(NB setting the trap trigger should take no more than 5% of the time involved in trapping. 95% of your time is spent talking the predator into your trap.)**

## **2. Useful YouTube videos explaining aspects of traps used.**

We have set out below some very useful video searches & links that will take you to material on YouTube – these will help you considerably in understanding how to operate the various traps you may encounter.

### **1. Victor Professional Rat Trap**

a. 'Victor Easy Set Rat Trap Instructional video'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOEqsE8CEs8>

b. 'How to set a Victor Professional Rat Trap.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YO3urlG-EnY>

### **2. Trapinator Possum Trap**

a. 'How to set a Trapinator Possum Trap'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=looHelAgMJg>

b. 'How to bait and set a Trapinator Possum Trap'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJPd2Wfu4B4>

### **3. Flipping Timmy Possum Trap (by Enviro Tools)**

a. 'Flipping Timmy Possum Trap overview'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeFSu5el\\_KQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeFSu5el_KQ)

### **4. Minimalist D-Rat (by Enviro Tools)**

a. 'Operation of the D Rat basic and Minimalist'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQQ1wy34Z38>

### **5. DOC 200**

a. 'How to set and service a DOC 200 kill trap'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kABskKb1NzE>

b. Phil Waddingtons DOC 200 tips # 1 – 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6gfTZNluM0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kJKooi6Oas>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5BUo7Yj79o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G471TFkv45s>

Should you have any queries please feel free to contact the PFWW coordinator or an experienced trapper through Forest and Bird Warkworth Branch.



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