

ANIMAL PEST CONTROL

POSSUM CONTROL

Leg Hold Traps for Possum Control

Introduction

This Environment Topic describes how to use leg hold traps safely and effectively. Victor leg hold traps are small metal traps without teeth that snare possums. Victor leg hold traps usually only cause bruising to the leg.

How effective are they?

Leg hold traps are often the best solution where a possum is known to feed but difficult to capture, and when baits and other methods are not able to be used. Leg hold traps have proven to be one of the most effective methods for capturing possums in New Zealand as the possum does not have to enter a cage or box, or try new foods. Leg hold traps catch possums that are behaving naturally.

How safe are they?

It is very unlikely people, including children, will be injured by a leg hold trap unless they are actually handling a set trap. Cats and small dogs will be held by a trap but will only suffer bruising. Large dogs can usually pull out of a leg hold trap. Leg hold traps are not suitable for urban areas. Alternatives such as cage traps and Timms traps are better suited to urban areas.

How do I use it?

The trap is set overnight at the base of a tree visited by possums or on a known "pad run" (a track made by possums) and checked every day. **Important Note: The Animal Welfare Act 1999 requires all set traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours.**

The trap is chained firmly to a strong point to stop possums dragging it away. A lure of icing sugar and flour leading to the trap



Set leg trap. Ensure it is chained to something firm.

attracts the possum. The most humane method of destroying a trapped possum is by shooting.

Disposing of possum carcasses

Returning carcasses to the soil replenishes the forest. By burying possums under trees suffering from possum damage, or in your garden, you help recycle nutrients they have taken. Ensure carcasses are buried well away from waterways.

Acknowledgements

Information and photo supplied by Auckland Regional Council.

For further information

For further information on animal pests or the Regional Pest Management Strategy, please contact the Biosecurity Animal Pest Officers at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice.

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