



Volunteer Information



Welcome to the team!

Thank you for joining the City Sanctuary volunteer team. Your efforts will help reduce possums, mustelids and rodents to levels that will lead to a positive impact on the health of our native flora and fauna.

This information package includes key information about your role as a volunteer and what to expect. It also includes City Sanctuary's Standard Operating Procedures for the trap types you will be using.

Your role

As a volunteer, you decide when and where you work. One-off tasks suit people who are unable to volunteer regularly, whereas trapline and monitoring operations require regular commitment. Ideally, you will work with your team members to agree on a trap check, maintenance and monitoring roster.

Traplines are checked once a week and important monitoring events take place in February, May, August and November. Your City Sanctuary Community Ranger can help to establish and maintain rostering systems if needed. Trap servicing must be conducted as per the training protocol. This ensures the traps are as humane as possible and are safe around pets and people.

You will be provided with a trap check kit and you will need to organise top ups and replacements of items in the kit within your team or with City Sanctuary staff.

If you are unable to commit to the trapline and monitoring programme, we have other one-off tasks you may be interested in.

Keeping in touch

At the beginning of your trapping journey, we will check in to make sure you're happy with how your trapping is going and provide you with any extra tips and tricks. Once you are confident with checking your trap line, we will stay in touch through our newsletter, emails and Facebook page.

If at any time you want to get in touch with City Sanctuary about your trap line, contact your allocated City Sanctuary point person.

Keeping Safe

Pre-start safety checklist

Before you head out:

- Check Site Specific Hazards included in the site plan and take note of relevant control measures to ensure your safety while servicing traps.
- Take note of any unique risks or hazards on the day e.g., high winds, rain or slips. Prepare adequately to mitigate these risks, or if not possible, decide whether these risks should stop you going out.
- Let your buddy know where you are going and when you are expected back.
- Check you have everything you need, including correct clothing, tools and bait.

Job completion safety checklist:

- Note any new hazards you came across during your trip. If significant, report these to your City Sanctuary Coordinator.
- Let your buddy know you are home safe.

Trapping and monitoring gear list

You will be provided with the following items in your volunteer kit. If you already have some of these items, please let us know.

- Hi- viz vest
- Gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- First aid kit
- Data recording sheets (if recording offline)
- Trap cleaning and maintenance tools
- Claw hammer
- Bait and blaze

You need to make sure you have the following:

- Mobile phone (battery charged)
- Appropriate footwear (covered sneakers or tramping boots; no sandals or gumboots)
- Appropriate clothing for the weather and the environment. We advise wearing long legged trousers and long sleeves to avoid scratches and cuts from vegetation
- Sun protection (sun hat and sunscreen)
- Water
- Food if you need it
- Personal medication

Traps and monitoring

City Sanctuary uses a variety of humane-kill trap types. You will be trained for all relevant trap types during your induction. Your site-specific plan details which trap types are on the line.

As part of the trapline management, you will undertake chew card monitoring every three months. Your City Sanctuary Community Ranger will let you know when monitoring is needed and provide training and guidance on this.

Trap Type	Target Species
Victor Trap	Rodents
T-Rex Rat Trap	Rodents
Goodnature A24	Rodents and Stoats
Trapinator	Possoms
Flipping Timmy	Possoms
DOC200 <i>(training only provided in select areas where there are traps)</i>	Stoats

Data Collection and Trap.NZ

Trap.NZ is a nationally used data collection platform for predator control and biodiversity monitoring. The Trap.NZ program has been specifically designed for use in tackling New Zealand's conservation goals and acts as a central data collection point for projects across the country. Recording trapping data is an essential part of City Sanctuary's Predator Free work as it allows us to quantify our efforts, measure our results, and improve what may not be working well.

Getting started

Before your training and induction, you will receive an email stating that you are a member of Predator Free Dunedin's City Sanctuary Project. Here are your next steps:

- Follow the links in the email and create an account.
- Save your password and bookmark the page so you do not have to log in each time.
- Once you have activated your account you will be able to enter data for the traps assigned to you.

Once you have your account, if you haven't already done so, download the Trap.NZ mobile app and login using your newly created account details. During your on-site induction you will be shown how to use the programme.

(Note: the app works for both iOS and Android, but if you don't have access to a smartphone that can run the app get in touch with your volunteer coordinator and we will set you up with an alternative way to record data).

What to record

It is important that ALL trap visits are recorded, even if nothing is caught. Each time you check a trap the following must be recorded:

- Record whether the trap is still set or sprung
- If sprung, record the species caught or if the trap is sprung and empty
- If an animal was caught, record what sex and life stage it is at (if you can tell)
- Record whether you have rebaited the trap and what bait you rebaited with
- Any maintenance needed or completed
- Any other important notes or information

See below for detailed instructions of how to enter this data, either through your dashboard on a computer or through the Trap.NZ app.

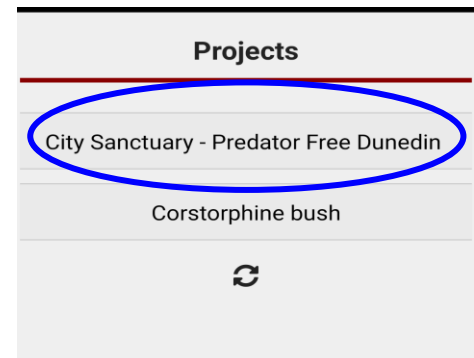
Using the Trap.NZ App

Using the Trap.NZ App is a quick and easy method to record your trapping data while out in the field. It saves you time doing data entry later-on and is a good way of making sure you've checked all your traps!

Logging in and viewing traps

When you open the Trap.NZ app you will be prompted to login. If you have multiple projects, make sure you select City Sanctuary – Predator Free Dunedin.

Once you're in the project, an overview map of the area will be displayed, and you will be able to see the traps you have been assigned. There is a marker which displays your location on the map. *Make sure you have location services turned on and permission given to the app in your phone settings.*



Entering Trap Data

Traps appear in red clusters showing the number of traps. Use your fingers to navigate the map and zoom in on the cluster. Individual traps will be visible once you've zoomed in.

Rat traps are followed by "-R" after the trap number and possum traps are followed by "-P". Make sure you select the correct one and do a separate entry for each!

When you have reached your trap, tap on the relevant triangle to begin an entry. Note locations with multiple traps will prompt you to choose which one you would like to enter data for.

For each section, a dropdown menu will appear. Fill out each section with relevant information (Note: menus for life stage and gender will only appear after a species has been selected). Likewise, a bait type menu will only appear after the rebaited box has been checked.

Staying up to date with trap maintenance is an important part of keeping an effective and humane trapping network running. You are our eyes and ears on the ground keeping us updated about what is happening! If maintenance is needed, please change the Condition to "Needs Maintenance", if you have undertaken maintenance, then record this information in the notes section. An overview of maintenance requirements for each of the trap types is included in the standard operating procedures for each of the traps.

Once you've entered your data **press & hold the save button** until the trap icon turns green. Once saved you cannot revisit your entry. If you need to change something, you need to make another complete entry or make a note in the notes field.

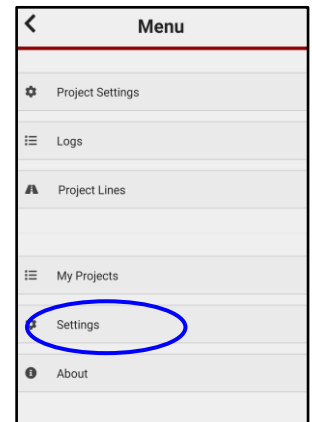


Advanced Record Fields

If you don't have the option to record things like sex and gender when entering trap data, you need to enable advanced record fields.

Here's how to create advanced record fields:

- Open the menu by clicking the 3 bars in the top right corner of the map.
- From the menu page click on "Settings".
- In the settings menu open the drop-down menu under "Advanced".
- Under advanced settings make sure the box with "Enable advanced record fields" is checked.



Hi-Resolution Maps

You may notice that when you zoom in on your traps the satellite map may go blurry and become difficult to navigate. If this happens make sure the Hi-res tiles are enabled!

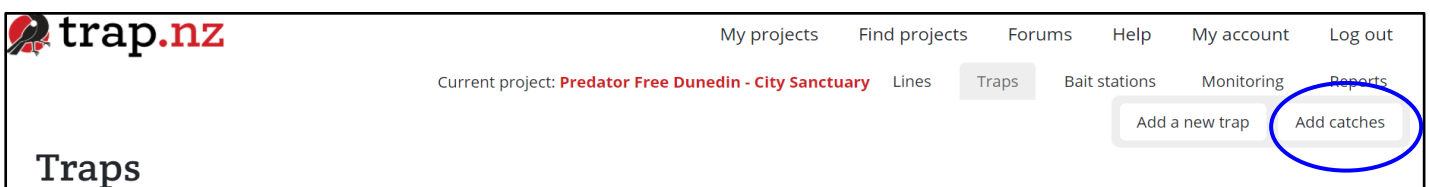
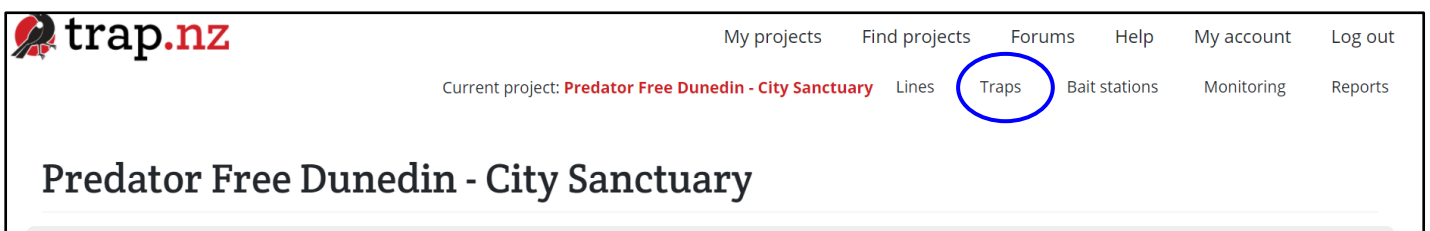
Here's how:

- Open the menu by clicking the 3 bars in the top right corner of the map.
- From the menu page click on "Settings".
- In the settings menu open the drop-down menu under "Map".
- Under the map setting make sure the box with "Hi-Res Tiles on Demand" is checked.

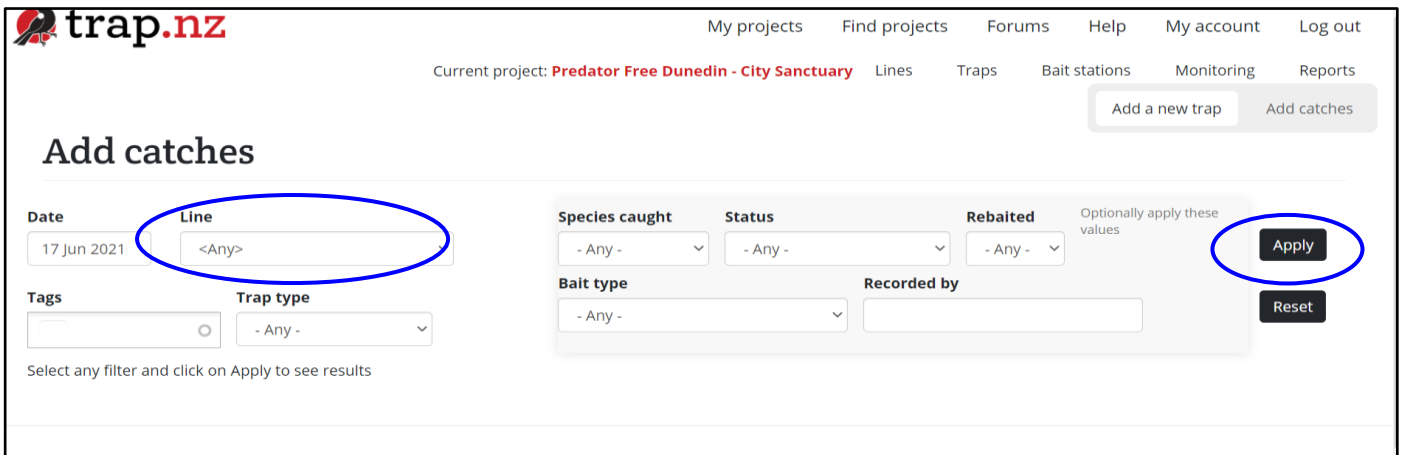
Adding catches from the website / desktop version

Once logged-in to Trap.NZ click on the 'Predator Free Dunedin – City Sanctuary' project. All traps in the project area will appear on the map, but you will only be able to enter data for traps assigned to you.

In the top ribbon, click on 'traps'. Then click on 'add catches'



A screen will appear requesting that you choose the name of the line you wish to enter data for. Click on the relevant 'Line' from the dropdown list. Click apply and all the traps associated with the line will appear.



trap.nz

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Current project: **Predator Free Dunedin - City Sanctuary** Lines Traps Bait stations Monitoring Reports

Add a new trap Add catches

Add catches

Date: 17 Jun 2021

Line: <Any>

Species caught: - Any - Status: - Any - Rebaited: - Any -

Bait type: - Any - Recorded by:

Optionally apply these values

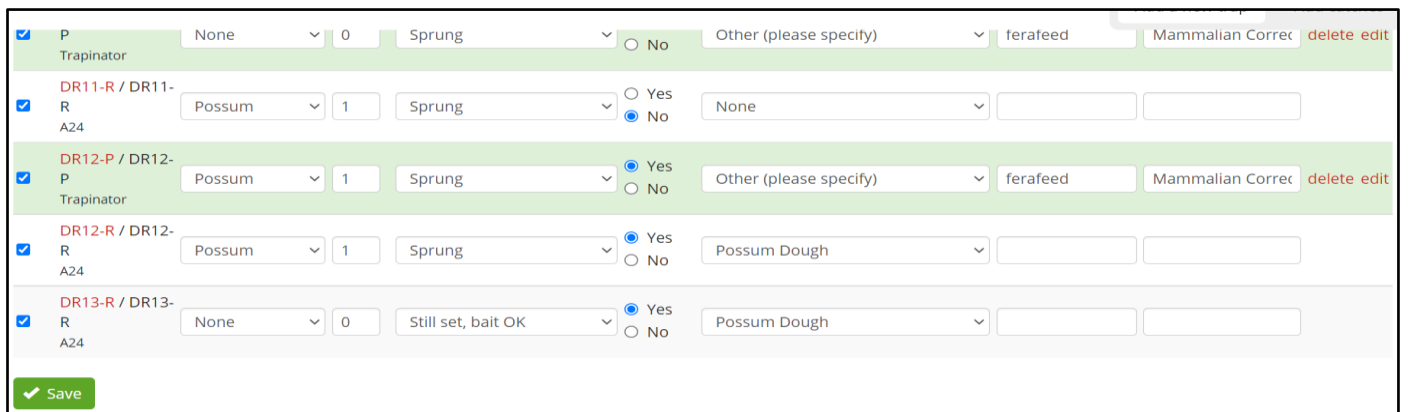
Apply

Reset

Select any filter and click on Apply to see results

There are two ways that you can update your trap check records.

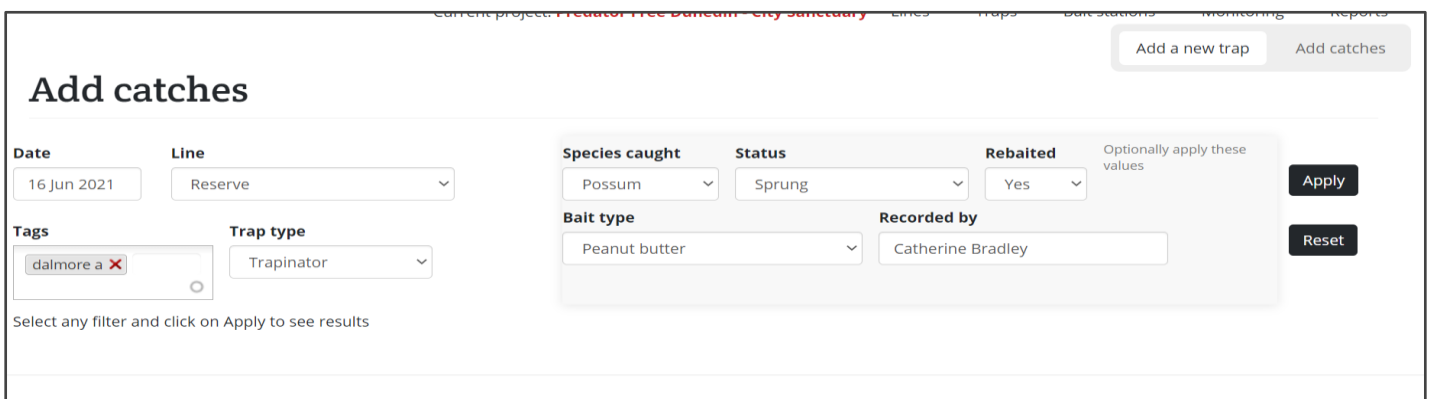
Option A: The first option is to simply enter data for each of the trap numbers within the line and click 'save' once you added in all your data.



Trap ID	Trap type	Species caught	Count	Status	Rebaited	Bait type	Recorded by	Actions
P Trapinator	None	0	Sprung	No	ferafeed	Mammalian Correc	delete edit	
DR11-R / DR11-R A24	Possum	1	Sprung	No	None			
DR12-P / DR12-P Trapinator	Possum	1	Sprung	Yes	Other (please specify)	ferafeed	Mammalian Correc delete edit	
DR12-R / DR12-R A24	Possum	1	Sprung	Yes	Possum Dough			
DR13-R / DR13-R A24	None	0	Still set, bait OK	Yes	Possum Dough			

Save

Option B: The other way (which is more suitable when dealing with many traps) is to select the trap type, fill in the most common findings for that line check in the grey box (e.g., 6 of the 10 traps had possums so we would enter with possum and the relevant bait etc.) then click 'Apply'.



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Current project: **Predator Free Dunedin - City Sanctuary** Lines Traps Bait stations Monitoring Reports

Add a new trap Add catches

Add catches

Date: 16 Jun 2021

Line: Reserve

Species caught: Possum Status: Sprung Rebaited: Yes

Bait type: Peanut butter Recorded by: Catherine Bradley

Optionally apply these values

Apply

Reset

Select any filter and click on Apply to see results

Select all / Select none

Save	Number/Code	Species caught	Strikes ?	Status	Rebaited	Rebaited with	Bait details	Recorded by
<input type="checkbox"/>	DR01-P / DR01-P Trapinator	Possum	0	Sprung	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Peanut butter		Catherine Bradley
<input type="checkbox"/>	DR02-P / DR02-P Trapinator	Possum	0	Sprung	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Peanut butter		Catherine Bradley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DR03-P / DR03-P Trapinator	Possum	0	Sprung	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Peanut butter		Catherine Bradley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DR05-P / DR05-P Trapinator	Possum	0	Sprung	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Peanut butter		Catherine Bradley

Remove the tick from the box next to any traps that this is not relevant for (i.e., no possums were caught at DR01 and DR02) and click save. You will then need to repeat this process for the traps that had no records but were rebaited etc.

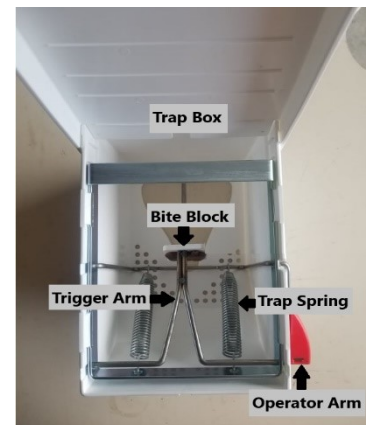
The Traps - Standard Operating Procedures

The Trapinator Possum Trap

The Trapinator is a tree-mounted kill trap designed specifically to target possums. It is contained within a white plastic box with an operating lever that allows you to easily set the trap inside. This spring-set trap is triggered when a possum interacts with the bite block. Trapinators have met the standards for the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) guidelines.

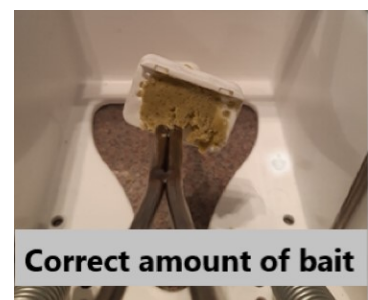
How traps are installed

Traps are installed on a wooden backing board to ensure the trap remains firmly fixed to the tree. This ensures the trap does not get warped and triggers properly when set off. Trees are selected based on their size, straightness and whether sign is present that a possum is using the tree for browsing or marking. Traps are installed at a minimum height of 1.2 meters to reduce interference from domestic animals.



Baiting and setting the trap

- Deactivate the trap (if still set) by slowly releasing the operating arm towards you and then open the lid.
- Turn the bite block around on the trigger arm so it faces upwards.
- Remove any old bait, make sure this is thrown away from the trap.
- Apply a generous pea sized blob of fresh bait to the side of the bait block that is facing towards you.
- Bait the bite block with your City Sanctuary bait option. DO NOT use meat-based baits.
- Rotate the bite block to its original position.
- Close trap box lid and reset the trap, ensure you keep the lever close to the trap box when pushing forward to avoid bending the operating arm and ensure that there's even weight on the springs.
- Finish your baiting by rubbing some bait and blaze on the tree below the trap and scuffing the ground



Releasing a catch

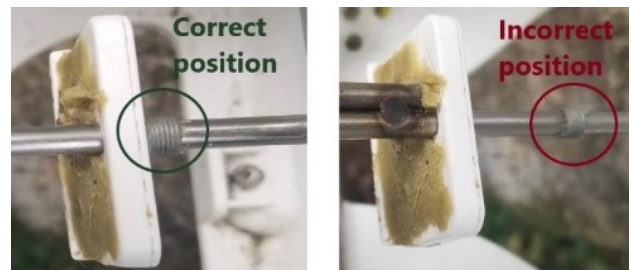
- When you have a catch, the trap will be triggered and unset.
- To release the carcass, first put on gloves, then with one hand set the trap and hold the operating arm firmly. With the other hand pull the tail to release the carcass from the trap. Immediately unset the trap.
- If the catch does not release easily, you may need to insert an object such as a hammer in from the top and push the head of the possum down.

Carcass disposal

- Find a spot away from the trap and any public areas to bury the possum. If this is not possible, carry the possum to a suitable site.
- Sometimes female possums will be carrying a joey in their pouch or back. Larger Joeys may be found still alive. The most humane way to dispatch joeys is to use a hammer to the back of the head. If you have any concerns about dispatching joeys, discuss options with your City Sanctuary Coordinator.

Trap servicing and maintenance

- Ensure the trap and its internal mechanisms are clean using cleaning tools (brush and scourer) as required. Focus on the trap entry, bite block and trap springs.
- Visually inspect the trap for function/damage:
 - Jiggle the trap from side to side to see if it is loose.
 - Set and reset the using the handle to check functionality.
 - Check all the screws are tight
 - Check the wire coil on the trigger arm is fixed fast in the correct position (see picture).
- Fix anything you can and record any 'maintenance required' with clear notes in via Trap.NZ. If any of the trap mechanisms are not functioning correctly do not set the trap.



Trapinator safety tips

- Always check the trap is unset before you put your hand near the mechanism.
- Always wear gloves when handling your trap and dead animals.
- Wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly afterwards. This minimises the risk of catching animal-borne diseases such as leptospirosis.
- When setting and unsetting the trap, place your left hand against the top of the left side of the box to hold steady. Use the fleshy section of your right thumb to push the lever back. Keep your fingers out of the way.

The Flipping Timmy Possum Trap

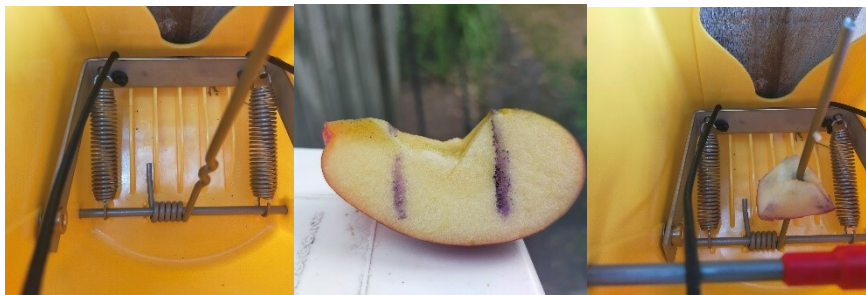
The Flipping Timmy is a humane-kill possum trap. The Flipping is a redesign of the Timms Trap. It is mounted on a base plate and designed to be installed on a tree or can be mounted horizontally in areas where no vertical platform is present and domestic pet and non-target species interactions have been considered. Flipping Timmy's have met the standards for the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) guidelines for possums.



Baiting and setting a Flipping Timmy

To bait a Flipping Timmy, first make sure the trap is unset.

- Cut a piece of apple into quarters and then cut the apple into three segments.
- Slide the apple onto the trigger arm to the 'contact zone' (the bent points in the arm)
- Finish your baiting by rubbing some bait and blaze on the tree below the trap and scattering the other apple segments around. Ensure this is done before setting the trap.

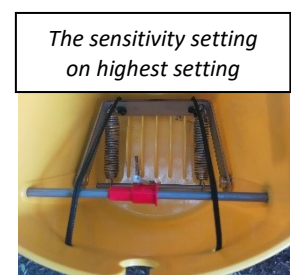


After baiting the trap, close the trap box and with one hand rotate the red button 90 degrees anticlockwise to lock it. With the palm of one hand pushing against the trap surface, use the other hand to pull the setting cord firmly towards you until you feel the trap is set.

Tuck the loose setting cord up against the red trap lock.

The Flipping Timmy has a sensitivity setting that can be used if it is expected that smaller possums will be interacting with the trap. The gauge has two distinct levels, the lower setting decreases the amount of effort required by a possum to trigger the trap by raising the trigger arm slightly towards the trigger position, the higher setting further increases the trap's sensitivity by raising the trigger arm further.

In general, the sensitivity setting does not need to be used. However, if a trap is catching small possums or backriders the lower sensitivity setting may be used.



Unsetting a Flipping Timmy

With one hand support the yellow trap box and with the other hand rotate the red lock button 90 degrees clockwise. Ensure you are holding the setting cord and supporting the trap box to release it slowly downwards until it comes to rest on the tree. With one hand hold tension on the setting cord and gently push the kill bar forward. Ensure tension is maintained on the setting cords and make sure the cord is held from the outside (rather than having fingers between the cord and the trap).

Slowly allow the setting cord to be drawn back into the trap, releasing the spring tension and carefully unsetting the trap.

Releasing a Catch

When you have a catch, the trap will be triggered and unset. To release the carcass, first put on gloves, then simply set the trap by pulling the setting cord. This will release the carcass. Follow the steps as outlined to unset and rebait the trap.

Carcass disposal

Find a spot away from the trap and any public areas to bury the possum. If this is not possible, carry the possum to a suitable site.

Sometimes female possums will be carrying a joey in their pouch or back. Larger Joeys may be found still alive. The most humane way to dispatch joeys is to use a hammer to the back of the head. If you are uncomfortable dispatching of a joey or backrider, leave the possum in place in the trap and contact a City Sanctuary Coordinator.

Trap servicing and maintenance

Ensure the trap and its internal mechanisms are clean using a plastic dish scrubbing brush or sponge (have a nominated cleaning tool so that it doesn't get used in the kitchen!).

- Visually inspect the trap for function/damage
- Jiggle the trap from side to side to see if it is loose and check screws are tight.
- Set and reset the trap to check functionality.
- Check all the screws are tight
- Check that yellow box is fixed tightly on the black trap mount hinges.

If any of the trap mechanisms are not functioning correctly do not set the trap and get in touch with your City Sanctuary contact.

Flipping Timmy safety tips

- Always check the trap is unset before rebaiting or cleaning the trap.
- Always wear gloves when handling your trap and dead animals.
- Wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly afterwards. This minimises the risk of catching animal-borne diseases such as leptospirosis.
- Remember to always ensure that the first thing you do when approaching a trap is to check whether it is set or unset. If set, unset the trap immediately. The last thing you do before leaving the trap site is to set the trap; bait, blaze and trap servicing should all be undertaken whilst the trap is unset.

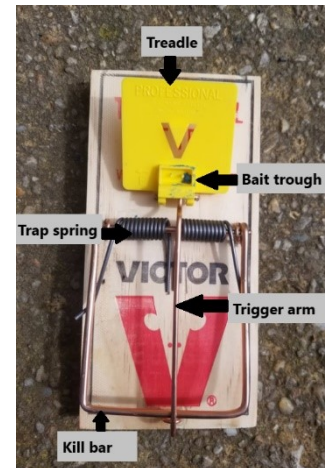
The Victor Rat Trap

The Victor Professional is a single-kill snapback rat trap. The Victor trap has been tested against the NAWAC (National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) testing guidelines and passed for ship rats, which are the most prevalent rat species in our Dunedin City Reserves.

Baiting and setting a victor

Deactivating and cleaning

- Remove trap from the trap box, taking care not to set it off on yourself if it is still set.
- If the trap has caught something the section below on how to release and dispose of a catch
- Deactivate the trap (if still set), hold the trap with the treadle plate closest to you. Hold down the kill bar with one hand and flick out the trigger arm from the treadle. Slowly release the kill arm towards you while keeping your fingers out of the way. Please DO NOT dry spring the trap as this will damage it.
- Remove any old bait from the treadle and trap, throw away from the trap site.
- Ensure the trap and its mechanisms (springs, kill arm, trigger arm and treadle) are clean using a scrubbing brush if required.



Baiting

- Place a small amount of bait into the trough section of the treadle. Don't be tempted to overfill as rodents may be able to eat this without triggering the trap.
- Only use the bait that has been provided to you, do not use any meat or fish-based lure unless instructed.

Resetting

- Pull back the kill bar.
- While still holding the kill bar with one thumb, bring the trigger arm over the kill bar and place into the groove in the treadle. Be sure that the trigger arm does not get placed under the rod that secures the treadle. This will prevent the trap from firing when the treadle is weighted.
- The trigger arm can be placed on the far left (firm setting) or far right (sensitive setting). A firm setting is easier to set but means that the trap is less sensitive to trigger. A sensitive setting is harder to set and will trigger very easily.
- Lift the treadle plate towards you and slowly remove your thumb from the kill bar until the trigger arm is caught in the treadle.
- Place the trap back into the trap box and ensure the treadle-end of the trap is facing the trap box opening.

Releasing a catch

- When you have a catch, the trap will be triggered and unset. To release the carcass, first put on gloves.
- Pull the kill bar back and remove the catch with your other free hand.
- Identify your catch (see Appendix 1)
- Dispose of the carcass away from the trap site.

Servicing the trap

- Inspect the trap for any signs of wear or damage e.g. breakages, weak springs, staples missing, treadle sticking. Fix anything you can and record 'maintenance required' with clear notes in via Trap.NZ
- A common maintenance issue for Victor rat traps is the trigger arm and back staple popping off. Use a hammer to gently tap in a new staple at the back of the trap (you'll see two tiny holes from the original staple). Prise open the hook end of the trigger arm so you can slip it onto the staple (make sure you don't put the trigger arm on upside down!) Use pliers to squeeze the hook tightly shut so the arm won't pop off again. Test setting the trap to ensure the arm holds under the trigger plate alright
- If the trap is not functioning properly do not set it.

Victor Safety Tips

- Always check the trap is unset before you put your hand near the treadle plate.
- Always unset the trap before carrying out any cleaning/rebaiting. When handling the kill bar, keep your fingers away from the trap in case you need to release the kill bar quickly.
- Always wear gloves when handling your trap and dead animals.
- Wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly afterwards. This minimises the risk of catching animal-borne diseases such as leptospirosis.

The DOC200 Trap

There are three types of DOC series traps:

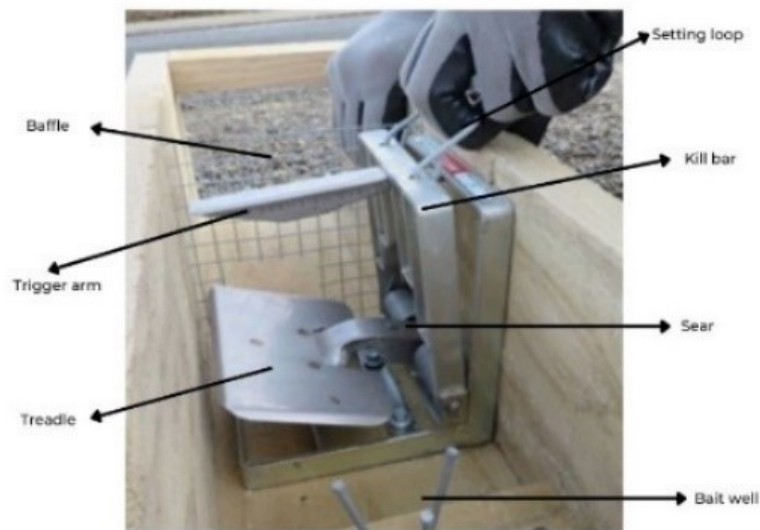
- DOC 150 (NAWAC approved for Norway rats, stoats, and hedgehogs)
- DOC200 (NAWAC approved for Ship rats, Norway rats, stoats and hedgehogs)
- DOC250 (NAWAC approved for Ship rats, Norway rats, stoats, ferrets and hedgehogs)

None of these traps have been NAWAC tested for weasels, however weasels are successfully trapped in all these trap types. All three of the trap types are set in the same way although the DOC250 can require a setting tool if the user lacks physical strength.

DOC200

The DOC200 is a kill trap contained within a large timber box. The trap is triggered when an animal stands on the treadle plate causing the trap to spring shut with great force.

The City Sanctuary DOC200s are screwed securely shut with an 8mm hex screw to prevent humans and animals from opening the box whilst it is set. DOC200s can be a single trap in a box or a double set with two traps in a longer box. The standard length for a DOC200 trap box is 40cm with the trap inside the box mounted at 13cm back from the entrance hole. This is standard practice for traps used in rural settings where the risk to domestic pets is lower. In urban settings where there are more domestic cats, traps are mounted further back inside the box to decrease the risk of cat paw capture. The box length is 49cm and the trap is placed 29cm from the entrance. City Sanctuary uses long trap boxes in urban settings.



How DOC200s are installed

DOC200s are affixed securely within the box which is often secured to the ground using reinforcing steel. Trap sites are selected to target areas where there are animal runs and following geographical features and habitat that is known to be favored by stoats. Traps are placed on flat, even ground along ridges, tracks, roads, creeks or rivers.

Baiting the trap

- Ensure the trap is unset before baiting
- Create a nest replica by winding grass around the egg cradle (three nails that hold the egg)
- Place your egg in and, if possible, lay it horizontally (eggs are more likely to be seen in this position in the wild)
- Place your meat / fish lure firmly on the single nail in the trap. Do not place bait anywhere else in the trap box, however, the lure can be rubbed on the inside and outside of the wooden box to apply the smell of the lure.
- If using a short length box, do not use meat / fish lure, instead apply peanut butter to the bait nail.
- Scruff up the soil around the trap entrance and ensure that the entrance hole is free of vegetation.
- If you have had a fresh catch, rub the body of the animal around the outside of the trap.
- If fresh meat or peanut butter is being used to bait the trap, this should be changed with each trap check. If dehydrated meat / fish lure is being used, this should be changed once a month.
- The egg is a visual lure and during the winter months should be changed every 6 -8 weeks. In summer, the egg is likely to deteriorate faster, therefore more frequent replacement is recommended.



Setting the trap

- Place your knee or foot firmly on the wooden edge of the box near the trap to help keep the box firmly in place when setting the trap.
- Hold the setting loop to lift the kill bar up and over the top of the trigger arm.

- Continuing to hold the setting loop securely with one hand, use the other hand to adjust the trigger arm into place just in behind the lip of the sear.
- Once you feel that the trigger arm is firmly in front of the sear, release your hand from the settling loop
- A common issue if your trigger arm does not catch on the sear is that your trap box is not level, there is something under the treadle plate or the trap has not been calibrated properly. If the trap is not setting, investigate as to why.
- Once the trap box is set, close the lid, and screw it back down, take care to ensure the screw lines back up properly and fastens snugly. Do not overtighten the screw.



Unsetting the trap

- Never kick the trap boxes to set off the traps (known as dry firing) as this will damage the trap springs over time.
- Using an 8mm ratchet spanner, undo the lid's pivot screw and open the lid so that it is still supported by the trapbox.
- Kneel or stand on the edge of the box to ensure that the box is secure (particularly if it is not secured with reinforcing steel)
- With one hand, take a firm hold of the setting loop to prevent the kill bar from triggering. Take hold of the trigger arm and move it forward of the sear. Gently lower the kill bar to rest on the treadle in an unset position.



Releasing a catch

- Wearing gloves, pull up the setting loop, until the bar is high enough to clear the dead animal, then then slowly let the kill bar back down. Do not set the trap to remove a carcass. A safety clip can be used if needed.
- Clean the trap using a paint scrapper or wire brush (if required).
- Make sure you clear away any fur or debris that are underneath the treadle or in the trap box.

Trap servicing and maintenance

- The trap may need re-calibrating after 8-12 weeks to ensure that it is triggering at the correct weight for the target animal.
- When cleaning the trap, pay particular attention to the springs, areas surrounding the sear and the area below the treadle.
- If the trap is too rusty and is not triggering freely, then the trap may need to be replaced or removed for a full clean (trap unscrewed from the box and recalibrated).

DOC200 Safety Tips

- Always ensure the trap is unset or use a safety clip before you put your hand inside the box, these traps have a strong spring and can cause injury if mishandled!
- Always wear gloves when handling your trap and dead animals.
- Wash or sanitise your hands thoroughly afterwards to minimise the risk of catching animal-borne diseases such as leptospirosis.

The Goodnature A24 Rat and Stoat Trap

The Goodnature is an automated kill trap designed specifically to target rats and stoats. It has a long-life lure pouch that attracts predators into the trap. The trap mechanism fires when triggered. It is powered by a CO2 canister and will reset itself 24 times. The carcass will drop to the ground and is often scavenged by other predators. The traps also have a a bluetooth counter or a manual counter which keeps a record of every time the trap fires.

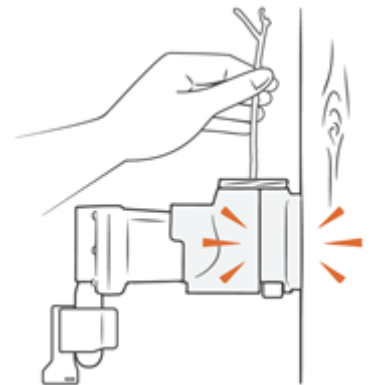
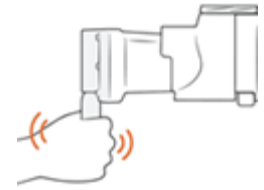
The Goodnature A24 is tree mounted. Traps are placed at a hand width above the ground to reduce the likelihood of interactions with domestic pets. Although Goodnature has its own app that goes with the trap, we currently only record any catches or maintenance through the Trap.NZ app. If you would like to download the Goodnature app so you can see the real-time count data get in touch with your City Sanctuary staff member.

Checking an A24

- Twist off the cap from the trap and check the lure pouch (or other lure type) for any mould and remove if present. Report mould in Trap.NZ notes.
- If your line is not using pouches, replace the lure located inside the top of the cap with some fresh lure. Press this firmly into the cap so it is nice and flat.
- If using the Bluetooth app, while you still have the cap off the trap, shake the cap vigorously. If there is no flashing light after 30 seconds and several shakes, select “needs maintenance” on trap.nz and record this in the notes section.
- If you have been assigned to be the gas checker, place a long, thin stick down the trap cavity and push against the trigger. If the trap does not fire you will need to replace the gas. See the instructions below and make sure you report your gas change in Trap.NZ.
- Report any kills (if a carcass is present) via Trap.NZ app, with the number of strikes corresponding to the number of carcasses of that species around the trap. If there are two or more species present, enter catches for each species separately in Trap.NZ.
- Clear any catches away from the trap site. Fresh scent is appealing to other predators, but if the catch is old, this can be a deterrent.
- Apply fresh lure and blaze below the trap on the tree. This will increase the likelihood of a target pest species interacting with the trap.

Replacing CO2 canisters

- Gloves must be worn when removing a canister.
- Ensure that there is no gas remaining in the canister by test firing the trap. To test fire the trap, remove the cap and poke a small twig onto the trigger. The striker will fire with a bang if there is gas in the canister. If there is no gas, the trap will not fire, and the empty canister can be removed.
- Replace the lid after test firing and before replacing the gas.
- Unscrew the empty gas canister and return to the City Sanctuary project for recycling.
- Remove the black top from the new canister and screw the canister clockwise into the trap until you can hear a hiss that the top of the canister has been pierced. Firmly screw in the canister but do not overtighten.
- Test fire the trap to ensure the canister is working.
- Importantly, once a gas canister is removed, there can still be one fire left in the trap, ensure that once the canister is removed and before replacing a new canister, a test fire is undertaken.



Trap servicing and maintenance

It is important to make sure that any leaf litter or branches do not clog up the trap entrance. Each time you visit an A24 scuff and clear the ground below the trap. If there is any mould on the inside of the cap, wipe it clean before rebaiting. The inside of the trap must not be cleaned whilst the trap is active. If there is part of an animal stuck in the trap, the gas will need to be removed prior to cleaning.

Occasionally the mounting shroud can become loose and the trap becomes wobbly. Make a note in trap.nz if the trap needs maintenance. Do not remove the trap from the shroud whilst there is gas in the trap. Contact your City Sanctuary Coordinator if you need help servicing the trap.

A24 safety tips

- Always wear gloves when handling traps and carcasses.
- Never put your hands in the cavity of the trap.
- If you are moving the trap to another location complete a test fire before moving to ensure any remaining gas has been discharged.

Identifying your catch

Providing data on the sex, age and species of your catches will help us develop a better understanding of the urban pest populations we are targeting. Here are some tips on how to identify each of the pest species.

Possums

Adult Female brushtail possums have a forward-opening, well developed pouch. Adult males have obvious testicles. The chest of both sexes has a scent gland that emits a reddish secretion which stains the fur around it (an indicator of maturity).

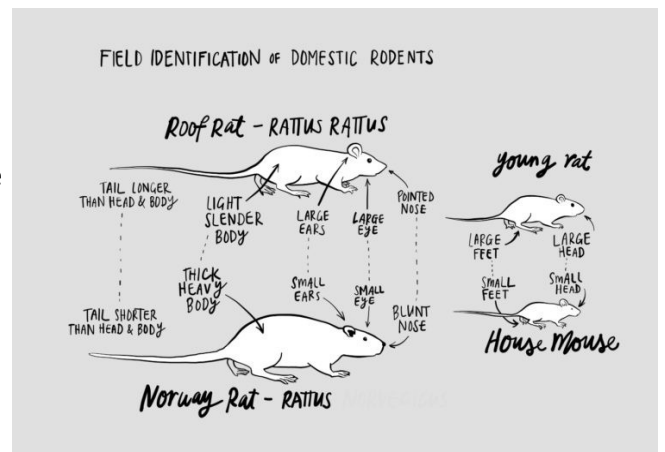
The gestation period is only 17 -19 days, and newborns stay in the mother's pouch for 6 -8 weeks before becoming a back rider.



Back riders are juvenile possums which stay with the mother possum for up to a year in some cases. They are carried around on the mother's back.

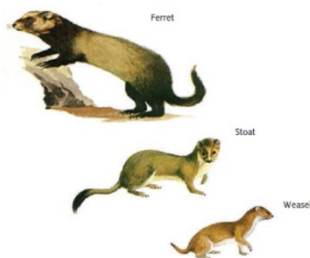
Rodents

The two main rat types are the Ship rat and the Norway rat. Ship rats are the tree climbers and can be seen scavenging in bird nests. Ship rats have a long tail and are slimmer than the Norway rat. Norway rats are usually bigger than a Ship rat and have a shorter tail and smaller ears.



Mustelids

Stoats have a distinctive black tip to their long tails.



Weasel tails are shorter without a distinct black tip. Adult females usually have obvious nipples from October- March while males have obvious testicles August- April. Juveniles will be smaller and without obvious nipples or testis during these months. Mustelids are more difficult to age and sex outside of the breeding season.

Further information regarding each of the target species can be found at:

<https://predatorfreenz.org/toolkits/know-your-target-predators/>

City Sanctuary opening hours

Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm

City Sanctuary Headquarters

Ground Floor, 164 Moray Place, Dunedin

Bait Box Locations:

You can get top ups for your trapping kits at the following locations:

City Sanctuary Office - 164 Moray Place

The Valley Project Rooms – 262 North Road.

Feel free to contact us any time and welcome to City Sanctuary!