



Trapping

Possum control in your area

We will be using traps to catch and kill possums in your area. This is part of the national effort to eliminate the disease Bovine tuberculosis (Tb) from livestock.

WARNING!

- Do not touch the traps
- Keep children away from all traps
- Keep cats and dogs away from leg-hold traps

Trap types



Timms traps are designed to capture and kill possums. These traps are used around houses/sheds, gardens and lifestyle blocks. Traps are baited with apple, oranges or carrots with a small amount of lure. Traps do not need to be checked every day.

Leg-hold traps are more effective than kill traps, and used away from houses.

Because they do not kill the possum, traps are checked daily.



Risk profile

Humans	Moderate	Traps can cause injury. Do not touch traps, keep children away.
Dogs and Cats	Moderate	Dogs or cats can be held in leg-hold traps. Do not let dogs or cats roam in leg-hold trapping areas.
Livestock	Low	Leghold traps are set away from stock
Feral Game	Low	No effect.
Environment	Low	No ground dwelling birds (e.g. kiwi, weka) are in the area.

Effects of Trapping

Humans – Traps can cause injury. Keep children away from traps. Never put your hand or arm in a trap.

Dogs and cats – Timms traps are safe when they are baited with apple. Leg-hold traps can capture and hold a cat or dog, and subsequent struggling may injure the animal. Please keep your pets out of areas which are being leg-hold trapped.

Livestock and feral game – Traps are set to minimise risk to livestock. If sheep get into the trapped area they may be caught and held, but not usually injured.

Environment – Traps can capture and injure native ground dwelling birds such as kiwi and weka. These species do not occur in the operational area.

Benefits of possum control

Disease control – Possums transmit Tb to livestock. Effective possum control will allow us to manage this disease and protect access to international markets for meat and dairy products.

Environment - Possums destroy native forest, and compete with native species for food on a grand scale. They also eat adult native birds, their eggs and their chicks, native snails and insects and even juvenile native bats. Populations of many native species such as tui and wood pigeon (kereru) flourish after possum control.