

# Testing the Welfare Performance of Kill Traps

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# Background



- 1980's increased international opposition from animal rights activists to trapping/fur harvesting
- 1990's The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) developed a standard for testing traps
- 2000 The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) adopted these standards and developed New Zealand specific guidelines for assessing the welfare performance of restraining and kill traps

*NAWAC GUIDELINE 09:  
Assessing the welfare performance of restraining and kill traps*

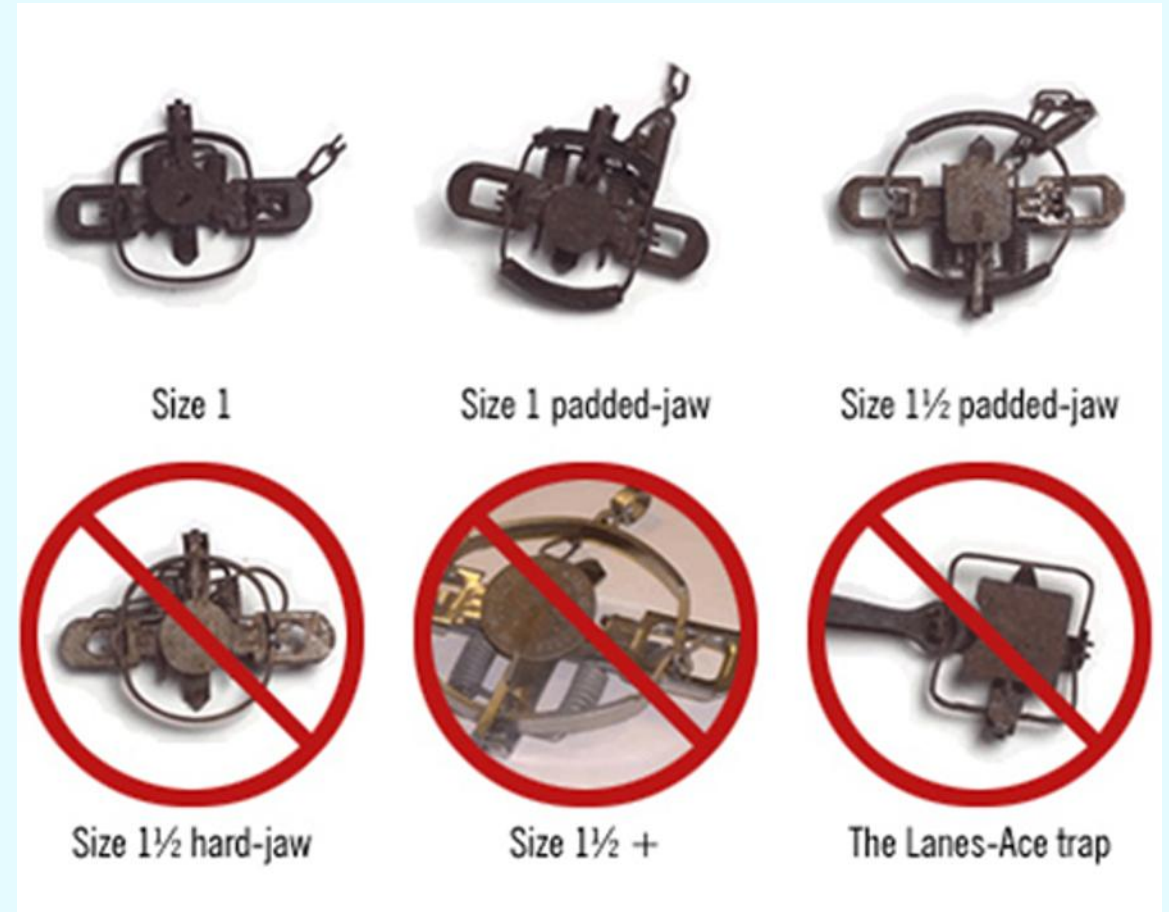


# Why do a NAWAC trap test?



- No legal obligation to use traps that meet the NAWAC trap-testing guideline, but public pressure for more humane pest control tools
- Agencies and manufacturers wanting to be seen to be promoting more humane traps
- Predator Free NZ and DOC advising use of traps that meet the NAWAC guideline
- No kill traps have been prohibited in NZ but some leghold traps have been

*precedent for prohibiting traps with excessive welfare compromise.*



# Kill trap testing



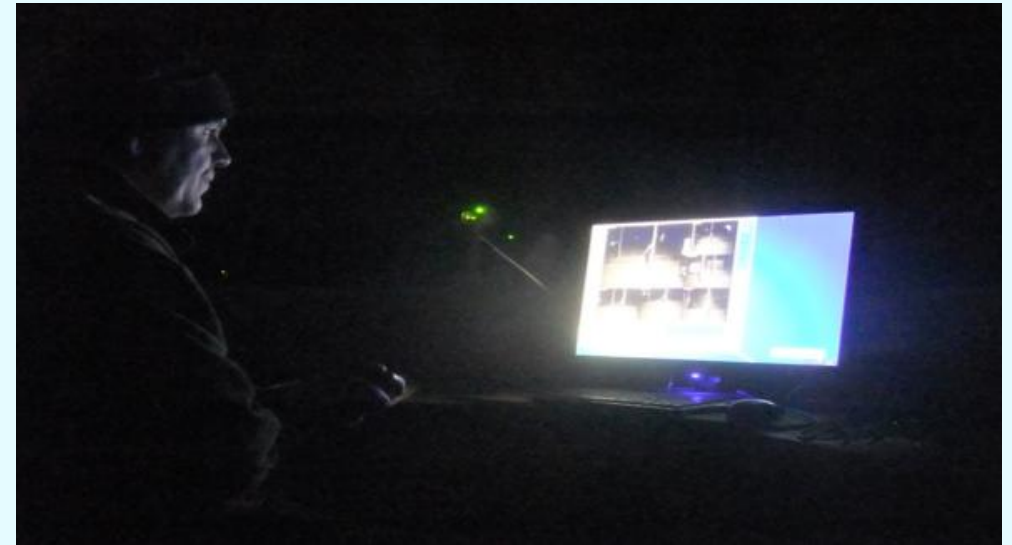
- Animal Ethics Committee approval required for animal testing
- Class A kill traps
  - Animals irreversibly unconscious under 30 seconds
- Class B kill traps
  - Animals irreversibly unconscious under 3 minutes
- Choice of sample size, but minimum of 10 animals
  - Larger sample size allows leeway for animals to exceed the threshold but they still need to be killed*
- Test of kill trap SET i.e. trap set in a tunnel, or up a ramp: how it would normally be used in the field
  - Different sets with same trap model can alter approach angle therefore alter the way animals are struck.*



# Testing: How is it done?



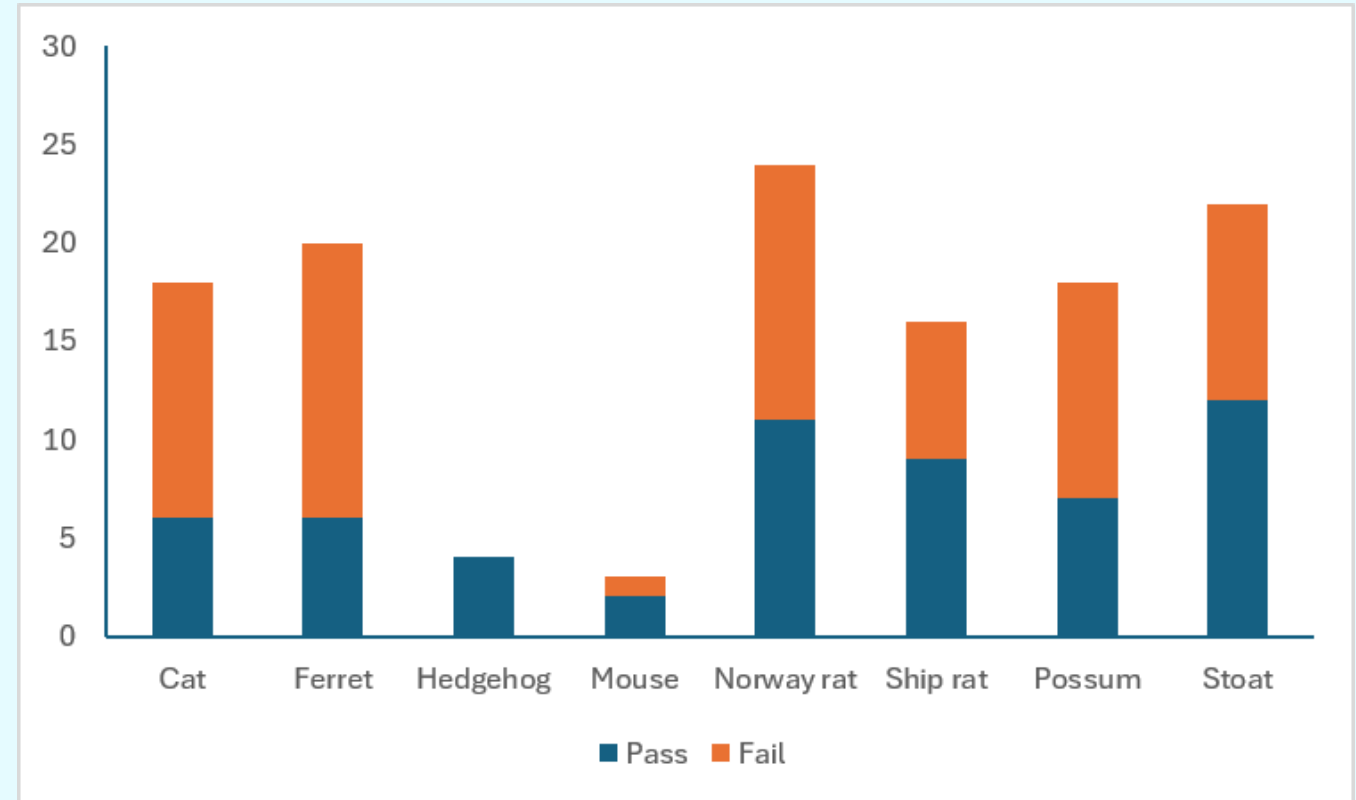
- Live capture feral animals and acclimatise them to captivity
- Individually house animals in testing arenas or pens
- Set up traps and video cameras
- Sit in the dark with finger poised over stopwatch
- Wait.....
- and wait.....
- and wait some more.....
  
- Finally, when animal captured, monitor time to loss of blinking reflex and heart stop



# Summary



- 129 NAWAC trap tests 2000-2026
- 8 species
- 69 trap models
- 57 tests pass the guideline



# Ferrets



- 20 trap models tested: 6 passed the guideline (one not commercially available)
  - DOC250
  - BT250
  - podiTRAP
  - Rewild F-Bomb
  - CSL Multi-Trap



- **Easy to test but hard to kill**
  - Food motivated
  - Small females/large males (500g – 2kg)
    - need multiple kill bars to cover size range
  - Robust
    - need high impact momentum & clamping force



# Stoats



- 17 trap models tested: 12 passed the guideline (four not commercially available)
  - DOC150, DOC200, DOC250
  - Goodnature A24
  - Modified Victor
  - Rewild F-Bomb
  - CSL Multi-Trap
  - NZ Auto Traps AT110 (available soon)



## Testing

- Food motivated
- 200g – 450g
- Quick reaction speed
- Fragile skull
- Readily enter holes



# Norway rats



- 21 trap models tested: 11 passed the guideline (five not commercially available)
  - DOC150, DOC200, DOC250
  - Modified Victor
  - Rewild F-Bomb
  - NZ Auto Traps AT110 (available soon)



## • Testing

- Digging & gnawing
- 150g – 550g
- Slower than ship rats
- Fragile skull
- Readily enter holes
- Bait with bacon fat or peanut butter

# Hedgehogs



- 4 trap models tested: 4 passed the guideline
  - DOC150, DOC200, DOC250
  - Rewild F-Bomb



- **Testing**

- Warmer months – inactive through winter
- 300g – 1kg
- Fragile skull
- Need high clamp force if impact doesn't kill
- Bait with dog roll & cat biscuits



# Feral cats



- 17 trap models tested: 6 passed the guideline (two not commercially available)
  - Timms
  - Belisle SuperX 220
  - SA2 Kat Trap
  - CSL Multi-Trap HT (available soon)



- **Testing**
  - Can be difficult to source
  - 1.5 – 6kg
  - Fragile skull
  - Towy
  - Propensity to use paw



# Cats are pawtsy...



Consider the real possibility that your kill traps ends up being a restraining trap



# Non-target risks



- Don't forget about live capture traps. Can be the only tool available in sensitive areas



Holden Live Capture Trap



Live Capture Cage Trap - Large

# Resources



- Bionet: [Welfare performance of animal traps » Bionet.NZ](#)
  - Trap summary table
  - Resources – trapping guides (getting dated but still some useful info)
- BSI website: [Home | Bioeconomy Science Institute](#)
  - Related sites: Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research Group
  - Search: NAWAC trap tests
  - Multiple trap testing reports
- [Where to buy traps and equipment - Predator Free NZ Trust](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

**Traps that have met the NAWAC guideline test specification for effective kill or effective restraint.**

Trap	Ship Rat	Norway Rat	Mouse	Stoat	Ferret	Hedgehog	Possum	Feral Cat
DOC 150		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DOC 200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DOC 250	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
BT 200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
BT 250					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Critter Solutions Multi-trap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PodITRAP					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Rewild F-Bomb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Goodnature A24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Envirotools D-Rat 'Lumberjack' <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Envirotools Supervisor MAX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Victor Professional PCR mod	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Victor Professional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
T-Rex <sup>2</sup> /Tomcat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Timms								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Flipping Timmy							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sentinel							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Warrior							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Trapinator							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Goodnature A12 (discontinued)							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SA Coni (discontinued)								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Twizel kill trap (discontinued)								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belisle Super X 220								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SA2 Kat trap							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NZ AutoTraps "AT220"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Nooski Rat Trap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Victor No.1 double coil spring unpadded							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
No. 1 double coil spring unpadded with chain-spring and swivel modifications <sup>3</sup>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

# Acknowledgements



- Bruce Warburton who got the ball rolling
- Funding from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (now the Ministry for Primary Industries), DOC, Regional Councils, trap manufacturers & suppliers.
- Animal Facility staff who sourced animals & looked after them.

# Thank you