



Taranaki Taku Tūrangā

**Towards
Predator-Free
Taranaki**

Become a Community Champion

So you're trapping in your backyard and perhaps you also check traps in public parks. That's awesome! You're already playing your part in protecting and restoring Taranaki's native biodiversity. But would you like to do even more?

Community Champions are everyday people who volunteer to share their passion and experience of backyard trapping with friends, neighbours or the wider community. There are no hard and fast requirements or minimum time commitment – we'll support you however, wherever and whenever you want to help.



What does a Community Champion do?

You might agree to do one or more of the following, or come up with your own ideas:

- ✓ Be the main point of contact for your street or suburb if anyone has trapping-related queries
- ✓ Store rat traps at your place – we'll drop them to you, you sell them for \$10 on our behalf
- ✓ Help beginners get set up – show them how to set a trap, where to put it, what bait to use etc
- ✓ Offer to check traps and/or dispose of catches for neighbours unable to do it themselves
- ✓ Encourage and help neighbours to use Trap.nz – or even offer to enter their trap check results
- ✓ Run neighbourhood workshops or events (we're happy to attend!), or set up an email list to share tips and progress
- ✓ Deliver flyers, go door to door and spread the word about Towards Predator-Free Taranaki
- ✓ Spread the word using social media. Set up your own group or share your news and successes on ours

Our team will work closely with you providing training, advice and tailored resources such as flyers or posters. They'll check in as often or as little as you need them.



About Towards Predator-Free Taranaki

Towards Predator-Free Taranaki – Taranaki Taku Tūrangā is a large-scale project aimed at restoring Taranaki's unique wildlife, plants and protecting the region's lifestyles and livelihoods by removing introduced predators.

Launched in 2018, the trailblazing project is using the latest trapping techniques, innovation and technology, sharing lessons learned as the country works towards its Predator Free 2050 target. Led by Taranaki Regional Council, the region-wide project is working with residents, businesses, schools, iwi, environmental and community groups to remove possums, rats and mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) from urban, rural and public land around Taranaki Maunga.



What is Trap.nz?

Towards Predator-Free Taranaki is using Trap.nz as part of a nation-wide database recording where traps are located and what is being caught.

Logging trap checks and catches on the Trap.nz website or app provides valuable data to track predator control around the region, assessing progress and helping identify gaps in the region's trapping network.

There is an information sheet included with every trap about how to use Trap.nz. You can find guidance, including 'how-to' videos at www.trc.govt.nz/using-trap-nz-to-record-catches/.



Contact us

If you're keen to become a Community Champion or would like to have a chat, please get in touch.

@ ptaranaki@trc.govt.nz

☎ 0800 736 222

🌐 trc.govt.nz/towards-predator-free-taranaki

📍 Towards Predator-Free Taranaki



FAQs

Why should we trap?

Our native biodiversity in New Zealand evolved in the absence of predators. Since species such as rats, mustelids (stoats, weasels, ferrets), possums and cats were introduced, our precious native animals and plants have been decimated, many to the brink of extinction.

Pests such as possums, rats and stoats compete with our native birdlife for food and habitat. They also eat the eggs and young, and attack the adults. If we don't do something, our taonga may not be around for our grandchildren. If everyone does their bit, we can make a significant impact towards protecting our biodiversity. Get on the team and let's go!

Where can I buy a rat trap?

Towards Predator-Free Taranaki sells subsidised rat trap packs for \$10. These contain a T-rex trap which are safe and easy to use, a wooden trap box, compostable gloves, a letterbox sticker and information.

They are sold at Mitre 10 and Hunting & Fishing in New Plymouth, Experience Purangi in Inglewood and the Taranaki Regional Council in Stratford. Many schools sell them as a fundraiser, a full list is here: www.trc.govt.nz/get-a-trap/. We also sell them at events and markets – keep an eye on our Facebook page.

If you become a Community Champion, we are happy to deliver a supply for you to sell on our behalf to your friends and neighbours. Just keep a record and we will invoice them directly.

What bait should I use?

Most people swear by peanut butter, but you could try milk chocolate, Nutella, bacon or walnuts! Ask your neighbours what bait they are using. Trial different bait to see what works, because just like humans, different rats have different tastes. It's a good idea to place a bit of 'free' bait in the tunnel in front of the trap – to attract rats into the tunnel.

Tip: Ask a local business, dairy or supermarket to donate expired peanut butter etc. for you and fellow trappers.

Where should I put my trap?

Rat traps should be placed in dry areas near waterways or standing water, along fences or vegetation or next to messy piles of vegetation. Do not put out in the open or right next to an open compost bin. Look for sign of rats: obvious holes dug into banks or your compost or rat droppings. You can also put out wax tags, chew cards or tracking tunnels to identify the presence of rats.

How often should I check my trap?

Ideally at least once a week. The bait only lasts a short time so regular checking ensures your trap is always set and baited. It also means any pests you catch are still relatively fresh and easy to remove.

We recommend checking your traps at the same time each week, so it becomes part of your weekly routine. Maybe when you take your rubbish or recycling bins out?

Of course, you can check your trap as often as you want. The more often you check, clear and re-bait it, the more pests you will catch.

What do I do with the rat when I catch it?

Bury it in your garden, or wrap it in newspaper and put it in your general waste rubbish bin (red lid). Putting it in your compost could end up smelly or attracting other predators! Remember to wear gloves when handling traps and animals.

I'm not catching anything, should I give up?

Catches will likely reduce within the first couple of weeks, when rat numbers take a hit. It's important not to be discouraged and to keep your traps set so they can't make a comeback. Try shifting your trap to a different spot or experiment with different bait if you aren't catching anything.

I live outside New Plymouth - can I still be a Community Champion?

Absolutely! The initial focus for the urban programme was New Plymouth however it's now being rolled out to a number of other towns around the region. We're also keen to hear from rural residents who may like to take a leading role within their communities, as part of the rural project.

What are you doing about cats?

We encourage residents to be responsible pet owners. That means keeping cats well fed, and indoors from dinnertime until breakfast, when their hunting instinct is at its strongest, helping protect our native bird and lizard species.

Rural residents wishing to control feral cats on their property can ask Taranaki Regional Council for live traps and/or advice, however, urban cats will not be trapped.

What about other pests?

We are focusing on rats, possums and mustelids (stoats, ferrets, weasels) as these have the greatest impact on native biodiversity and it aligns with New Zealand's Predator Free 2050 initiative.

How else can people help?

Anyone can volunteer to check traps in a public park, reserve or walkway. If you're in New Plymouth contact laura.george@npdc.govt.nz. We also have a corporate supporter programme for local businesses, check out our website.

Good luck and thanks for your support



Traps available from Towards Predator-Free Taranaki



T-Rex trap pack

Used for: rats

\$10

SUBSIDISED PRICE

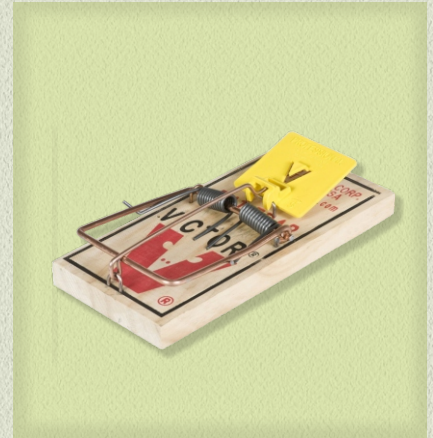


T-Rex replacement trap

Used for: rats

\$5

SUBSIDISED PRICE



Victor replacement trap

Used for: rats

\$5

SUBSIDISED PRICE



Possum Master

Used for: possums

\$23

SUBSIDISED URBAN PRICE



Timms Trap

Used for: possums
and hedgehogs

\$29

SUBSIDISED URBAN PRICE



Trapinator

Used for: possums

\$29

SUBSIDISED URBAN PRICE