

POSSUM CONTROL TECHNIQUES USED IN THE SELF-HELP POSSUM CONTROL PROGRAMME.

A range of options are commonly prescribed by pest control officers. The choice of technique depends on the individual property concerned. Council sells most pest control products (excluding cyanide paste) at the bulk cost price.

Controlled substance licence (CSL)

Vertebrate Toxic Agents such as cyanide and phosphorus require a Controlled Substance Licence (CSL). When used correctly these products can be very effective. Private animal control contractors use these products. Land owners/occupiers within the programme can obtain a CSL through the Council.



Private Contractors

Council has a list of certified contractors able to carry out control work on behalf of land owners/occupiers.

Leg-hold traps

Using leg-hold traps is labour intensive, but very effective when set according to best practice methods. Legally traps must be checked within 12 hours of sunrise each day.



Leg-hold trap

Kill traps

There are many types of kill traps on the market. The Possum Master (see photo) is a very effective kill trap. The snared animal dies very quickly by strangulation. The advantage over leg-hold traps is that kill traps don't require daily checking and are easy to set.



Possum master kill trap

ALTERNATIVE CHEMICALS THAT DON'T REQUIRE A CSL

Pindone

Pindone is a first generation anticoagulant with a low residual toxicity level. Different formulations are available for possums, rats and rabbits. No licence is required when bait stations are used. Appropriate signage is necessary (see www.nopests.co.nz).



Decal/Feracol

The active ingredient cholecalciferol (vitamin D3) kills possums and rats. The persistent residue level is rated low and there is only a low risk of secondary poisoning. No licence is required and the poison has a good field life. It must be used in either bait stations or biodegradable bag (shown).



Pestoff

Pestoff is a second generation anticoagulant. The active ingredient is brodifacoum. It is available in different formulations for possums and rats. No licence is required, however bait stations and appropriate signage is necessary.

Stock must have no access to bait at any time as residues of this poison will remain in stock for many months (ask your self help officer if this is appropriate for your property).



Bait stations

Bait stations come in various shapes and brands. They can be mounted on trees or posts and are the legal delivery system for many pelletised poison baits.



Bait station for pellet bait

Gel Bait

The active ingredient is cholecalciferol which has only a short-term persistence in the environment. It kills possums and rats and has an extremely long field life. The risk of secondary poisoning is low compared to other toxins. The additive bitrex deters cats and dogs. No licence is required to use the product



For further information visit www.trc.govt.nz