

Meadowbank St Johns Residents Association Rat Trap Project

Instructions for use of Rat Traps



1. Trap design

The trap design is similar to a “DOC 200” and that used by Predator Free NZ. It has been made for MSJRA by the local community organisation *Men’s Shed Auckland East*. The trap uses a spring housed in a treated wooden box with mesh ends to ensure only rodents can come into contact with it. The spring is a hazard, but is humane and chemical-free.

2. Trap ownership

Each trap has a unique number, and is loaned on a “library” basis to participating residents in Meadowbank and St Johns. MSJRA may request it to be returned for use by others.

3. Opening, baiting and setting the trap

It is good practice to wear gloves when setting to avoid tainting the trap with smells that rats don’t like. While you’re using the trap, have a container handy containing bait, gloves and a knife for loading the bait.

For a video demo, search YouTube for the type of spring trap used: “Victor”, “TomCat” or “T-Rex”.

Opening: Slide up the mesh at the back end of the box. If the trap is already set, for the Victor trap, always hold at the safe “V” end, pull the spring bar over, release the trigger plate and slowly fold the spring bar over to the unset position; for the Tomcat or T-Rex trap, push down and hold the hinge side of the spring trap then, with the jaws fully open, release the trigger plate. KEEP FINGERS CLEAR of the jaws if not pushing down to hold the jaws open.

Baiting: Peanut butter works well, especially crunchy! Before re-setting the spring trap, on a Victor trap, put a small amount of bait on the trigger plate itself; on a TomCat or T-Rex, bait the cup in the hole in the trigger plate.

Re-setting: With a Victor trap, always hold at the safe “V” end. Fold the spring bar over and reset the trigger plate. With a Tomcat or T-Rex, push down on the back of the hinge until the trigger plate clicks into place and holds open. DO NOT TOUCH THE TRIGGER PLATE WITH YOUR FINGERS AFTER SETTING!

Carefully slide the spring trap back into the tunnel with the trigger plate facing the entrance. Keep the reset spring trap near the back (sliding mesh end) of the tunnel.

4. Positioning and monitoring the trap

Rats like to travel along “highways” such as tops or bottoms of walls. Place the trap in such a position where it can also be monitored without being having to move it. Note the mesh with the opening is at the entrance end. Take a note of the trap location and the date it was baited and set. Monitor the trap every two or three days.

If the trap is well-baited with no catches for say 2 weeks then it may be time to relocate the trap.

If the bait disappears without triggering, it may be mice (who also like peanut butter)! A way of handling this is to place a small baited mousetrap inside the box, closer to the entrance.

5. Reporting data

File a report to our Project Web Page ***details to follow***

6. Disposal

Dispose of any kills by burying or by using the household rubbish collection bin.