

Goodnature Ltd A12 and A24 Self-Resetting Traps- Update; Now recommended for Stoats

(This note updates July 2015 advice regarding purchase by DOC of Goodnature self-resetting traps).

Research on kiwi survival at Trounson and lure trials at Karioi and Hapuakohe gives us confidence that Goodnature Ltd A24 traps used with Connovation Erayz rabbit block lures, are an effective tool for stoat control.

This allows me to remove the caution I added about the use of A24 traps for stoats in the July 2015 advice note.

We have not been able to test Goodnature's new rabbit based lure. However, Goodnature's own research shows their new rabbit based lure is effective on stoats, so I am also able to recommend this lure for stoats, if replaced every 1 month.

DOC trials have not demonstrated that older Goodnature long-life stoat lure is effective on stoats, but Goodnature has done trials that do show this.

**To reiterate the full picture:**

A key advantage of self-resetting traps and long-life lure, is the saving in labour costs due to longer intervals between field servicing visits, thus the life of the lure and the reliability of the trap are critical. These factors also determine whether the traps are available to predators at all times and underpin the spacing of the devices.

The results from DOC's formal trialling demonstrate that:

- \* 1. A12 traps can effectively and humanely control possums in moderate to low density situations, when set out at approximately 1 trap per hectare, with the lure refreshed monthly as recommended.
- \* 2. A24 traps have proven humane and very effective controlling rats when set at 2.3 – 5 traps per ha using Goodnature's Automatic Lure Pump to dispense "Rat Lure" replaced every six months as recommended. Without the auto-lure, squeezing to refresh of the lure is required monthly.
- \* 3. A24 traps have proven humane and effective controlling stoats when used with Connovation Erayz lure replaced 3-4 weekly.

DOC trialling of current versions of both traps gives assurance of trap reliability out to 18 months. Other operations using the latest versions of these traps have shown good reliability to 20 months. Goodnature's trialling shows their new rabbit based lure is effective on stoats if replaced monthly.

DOC commissioned an independent engineering assessment in early 2014, which concluded the operating principal of the A24 trap was robust and well resolved. It is noted that Goodnature Ltd offers a 2yr warranty with the traps is considered a professional provider.

The cost-effectiveness of self-resetting traps as a management option, is dependent on the pricing of the traps and of alternatives, required density of devices, site specific considerations, the sensitivity of the project to labour costs, as well as their effectiveness. Tools appropriate to each particular project should be considered on a case by case basis.

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