

Best Practice for Controlling Mustelids with Erayz

Introduction

This covers the most efficient (least amount of effort) and effective (best results) of accomplishing the application of Erayz Dried Blocks and Erayz Paste for the control of Mustelids (*ferret, stoat, and weasel*). This is based on reputable procedures that have proven themselves as a result of research outcomes and over time by Connovation field advisors and large numbers of customers.

Erayz products base is reconstituted feral rabbit with preservative. As mustelids prey on rabbit for food, Erayz has been developed to closely mimic that natural food source so both Erayz products are ideal to bait traps set for these animals. These products are entirely non-toxic and highly attractive to mustelids. Also, we have had reports of other pests have been caught in traps on Erayz baits e.g. rats, cats and hedgehogs.

Background

Stoats are lethal to our native wildlife. They are one of the main predators of our native birds. Stoats are equally at home in forests as they are in coastal habitats. Stoats are a pocket size killing machine and one of the few animals that kill for fun. Stoats are excellent climbers and very good at finding nesting birds. They are very aggressive, possessing sharp teeth and claws and they are not afraid of anything. Adding to the problem is their ability to quickly reproduce and travel large distances in search of food. Stoats are one of the worst predators of New Zealand's native wildlife.

Why use Erayz

- *Highly effective as it has an odour identical to fresh rabbit
- *Extended field life; does not get fly blown and will easily outlast a lot of other fresh baits
- *Practical and easily carried in the field versus fresh hen eggs
- *Shelf life 3 to 4 months and can be placed in the freezer for later use *Made in New Zealand

Products

Erayz Paste

This is a stiff moist rabbit paste with hair and bone through it and can be used in a variety of traps set to catch mustelids, from live capture to kill traps. It lasts at least one month in a covered trap set unless conditions are particularly humid. Even when it becomes a grey slushy mess it still attracts and catches animals in traps and does not get fly blown. It will last for months in storage and can be placed in the freezer for extended storage and used as needed.

Erayz Dried Blocks

The blocks are sometimes referred to as jerky, rabbit bait and stoat bait. This is the Erayz Paste spread onto trays and dried over a number of days to withdraw the moisture. Each cut block is approx. 30mm square by 8mm thick and weighs about 17 grams; variable as some pieces have more bone in them. The blocks are easier to handle than the paste and last longer.

Lure-It Salmon Lure

When traps are baited with Erayz Paste and Erayz Blocks they can be complimented by the addition of Lure-It Salmon in an aerosol can. Used as a general spray around the trap site and over baits will only enhance animals encountering your trap so a good complimentary product to use.

Application

Erayz Paste

Paste 10 to 20 20 gram blobs of paste on and around the trap site. It is a good idea to rub onto the wood of trap boxes too as the smell will permeate into the wood and remain in place for a while making the trap site very alluring.

Erayz Dried Blocks

One or two pieces to bait your trap are all that is needed. In a DOC 200 box skewer onto the bait nail and for other traps however the bait is attached, make sure it is well secured in place otherwise there is a risk that rats may carry away making your trap ineffective.

General

The type of trapping or poison bait method you adopt will depend on whether there is a requirement to afford protection to non-target species i.e. a baited trap will be rather enticing to cats, dogs etc, and a real danger to children. The only poison registered for stoats is Connovation Limited's PredaStop® and this does have special conditions on poison bait application required into target animal specific tunnels.

When to trap. It has been proven that the most optimum time to carry out trapping of mustelids is in the period from February to April. Far more will be caught per trap night than any other time of the year. However, if mustelids are preying on bird life or poultry, action must be taken immediately.

Baiting mustelids. Kills can be increased if there is a blood trail to the trap site, by dragging a dead rabbit or poultry carcass around set traps and when trapping mustelids in season, by dripping their urine over traps will often attract males. Baits can be attached high above and behind the set trap.

Setting traps for mustelids. On stock tracks, in rabbit burrows, small animal pad runs or tracks that pass under fences, small drain pipes that travel under roads, under trees where vegetation is short, shelter belts and hedges, stream edges, rivers and ponds, wood piles, piles of stones, large logs, around farm buildings, and around hen or poultry houses. Place rocks and branches around the trap to guide the animal over the trap plate as it approaches the bait.

Trap maintenance. If you buy new traps it is important to remove any traces of oil etc. used in manufacture. This can be done by washing the oil off with turpentine and then washing the traps well, or by burying for several weeks, or by submerging traps in hot candle wax.

Mustelid Sign

Scats or droppings, animal sightings, and recordings, be it footprints left on inked cards when animals run through tunnels, video footage or hair sampling where tubes are put out with sticky paper or Velcro and as animal runs past hairs are left that can then be identified under a microscope. The latter is a more specialised technique used by the Department of Conservation.

Products



