

Best Practice for Controlling Possums and Rats with Feracol®

Introduction

This covers the most efficient (least amount of effort) and effective (best results) of accomplishing the application of Feracol® for the control of Possums and Rats by using Feracol as a paste in bait stations or 18 gram Striker Bait Stations. 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.

Feracol paste is a high quality, cost effective form of pest control that doesn't require a licence. Feracol uses Vitamin D3 or Cholecalciferol, which is a naturally occurring vitamin, but is toxic when used in high doses. Feracol is a palatable non-toxic paste that attracts both possums and rats. It is biodegradable with no persistent residues and a minimal risk of secondary poisoning.

Cholecalciferol (VitaminD3) is a vitamin so is environmentally responsible and won't harm the environment. Feracol is a sustainable choice for farmers, orchardists and lifestyle block owners. No licence is required to obtain this product. **Caution:** Extreme care is required to safe guard against primary poisoning (accessing the bait directly) so do not use around domestic pets, animals, cats and dogs.

Why use Feracol

- *Biodegradable
- *No persistent residues
- *Environmentally responsible, no secondary kills, minimal risk to native birds or non-target species
- *Water resistant, remaining palatable for up to 2 months in the field
- *A high quality cost effective toxin that does not require a licence
- *A sound, trustworthy and more humane alternative to 2nd generation anticoagulant baits without the secondary poisoning risk
- *Safe to handle
- *Made in New Zealand

Products

Paste

A smooth dark blue paste that is a good bait option when bait stations are already in place through tracts of land. Feracol is a good control option for controlling low to high possum and rat populations. The Feracol Paste already has flavour and lure added into it at point of manufacture and no further additives are required.

Striker Bait Station

A Striker Bait Station is made from biodegradable potato starch and the small frame measuring approximately L 60mm W 14mm D 17mm is filled with 18 grams of Feracol Paste. The Striker is glued to a backing label and dipped in a light wax for weather protection and to maintain bait freshness. Striker Bait Stations are suitable for use in a rural environment where permanent bait stations are not required. The Striker packaging breaks down in a couple of weeks so users may not need to return to the area as they can be confident that there is no bait left.

Animal Sign

Possums

Droppings, scratching, evidence of browsing on shrubs or tress, bark biting, plucked fur from fighting, and heard at night.

Rats

Fresh droppings, rub marks, gnawing, feeding activity, and sightings.

Application

Pre-feeding

A pre-feed with non-toxic Ferafeed paste is strongly recommended to maximise toxic bait uptake. Prefeeding ensures animals will confidently eat the bait, draws animals to the bait site and it allows animal densities to be gauged allowing for bait rates to be modified if and when required.

Apply the same amount of pre-feed and at the same rate recommended for application of Paste and Strikers. Site bait stations in areas where there is evidence of possums and rats being present.

The animals you are targeting are very smart and will readily detect change therefore it is best to maintain the same bait medium for the pre-feed and toxic application. Bait should be placed on and near animal sign and as well for possums close to key food or play trees and possible nesting sites.

Spray Connovation Lure-It with a blaze onto trees, around and leading up to bait stations as a visual “blaze” and enticing fragrant lure to attract the Possums and Rats.

Feracol Paste in Bait Stations

Use Philproof or other bait station which are specifically designed for holding possum bait like Feracol Paste. Bait stations prevent access and predation by non-target animals and afford protection to bait from the weather. Position stations at heights that will not readily accessible by children, domestic pets or stock and must not be placed in water.

Put gloves on before applying Feracol Paste. Using a spatula or similar for the purposes of applying only Feracol, place 40 to 80 grams of paste into each bait station. In cases of high possum populations, check each bait station at two day intervals in the first instance to ensure the bait stations have sufficient bait remaining. Perhaps scale back and check stations at three day intervals if bait take is reduced, or if there is a low to medium rat population. Where part or all of the bait has been eaten, replace with fresh bait. If consistent bait takes occur then the quantity of bait into stations must be increased and or additional stations be placed. Wash spatula and gloves in clean water and store in poison store for future use.

Feracol Striker Bait Stations

Staple Strikers into place by affixing directly to trees and fence posts or stapled inside permanent bait stations through the area where there is evidence of possums and rats being present.

Strikers strategically placed will prevent access and predation by non-target animals and afford protection to bait from the weather. Position stations at heights that will not be readily accessed by children, domestic pets or stock and they must not be placed in water.

To help prevent the Striker tags from breaking, carefully select a suitable surface to staple to and use longer staples in the staple gun. If using in managed forests make sure to check with the Forest Manager on any special requirements for attaching to trees.

Spray Connovation Lure-It with a blaze onto trees, around and leading up to Striker bait station placements as a visual “blaze” and enticing fragrant lure to attract the Possums and Rats.

The number of Strikers to be placed will depend on the possum and rat infestation and how frequently the bait uptake is to be checked and baits renewed. A good guide is to place 3 to 5 strikers no less than 75 metres between sites in continuous habitat. Also, note: Striker bait spacing's as per the label are one to three Strikers at 50 metre intervals with usual spacing's between lines of 100 to 150 metres. In cases of high possum and rat densities, check the Striker lines at two day intervals in the first instance to ensure there are sufficient remaining. Perhaps scale back and check stations at three day intervals if bait take is reduced, or if there is a low to medium rat population. Where Strikers have been entirely eaten replace with fresh Strikers. Where Strikers have been partially eaten leave in place and insert the equivalent number of new Strikers. When Strikers are being eaten at a consistent rate, this signifies a high possum population in that area and the quantity of Strikers at each site must be either increased or additional Strikers be placed.

Safety Recommendations

Adhere strictly to product label directions at all times. Put gloves on before handling Paste and Strikers.

Feracol must be stored in its original container away from children, pets or food and wash hands.

All remaining bait should be removed and destroyed by burning or burying in at least 60cm of soil.

Recording

If a large number of bait stations or Striker Bait Stations are placed then record the stations on a GPS or geo map. This will ensure all stations are replenished with bait and once baiting is discontinued that all stations and poison is removed if required.

Pre-Operational Monitoring

This can be undertaken with Connovation Chew Cards to determine rodent numbers. A Chew Card is a 180mm x 90mm piece of white core flute card that has a pre-feed peanut butter Lucerne paste pressed into the flute channels from the sides. The cards provide a visual surface for attraction and a surface for biting. They indicate presence of species by bite mark identification.

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Products

FERAFEED 213



LURE-IT



FERACOL PASTE



FERACOL



FERACOL STRIKER



PHILPROOF

