



Goodnature Trap Project

Windy Hill Sanctuary, Great Barrier Island

Report 1 – April 11, 2016

293 Goodnature traps were put up in the Big Windy Hill Pest Managed Area between February 22 and 24, 2016. The programme requires that traps are checked monthly with bait refreshed and the trap set off to ensure its functionality.

Check 1. 28-30 March 2016

100% of traps functional.

Nine rat bodies seen, some reasonably fresh indicating bait/lure effective after a month. 8 were ship rats, 1 kiore.



Kiore kill.

Two traps were set up in a Sanctuary garden area that has residential rails to check on by-kill possibility and checked every few days – none to date.

Camera Interaction Recorded –There are now 11 cameras set up throughout the project area. Auckland Council camera (which was set up when the traps were deployed) recorded 2 visits by a kiore, 4 visits in total, no kills. The Windy Hill camera recorded 2 interactions but no kills. Details attached. Other cameras have been out a shorter time so results will follow.

Tracking Tunnel Results

25 tracking tunnels in the Big Windy pest managed area were monitored overnight between 4-7 April.

The result of 24% was unchanged from the pre Goodnature January tracking tunnel index. This was disappointing, however, it is not out of keeping with previous tracking tunnel indices in this area in

autumn – 2015 : 30%, 2014 : 30%, 2013 : 20%. This has historically been a difficult area to maintain rats at low densities which was why it makes for a suitable trial area.

As expected for this time of year and with such an exceptional growing summer season, all tracking tunnels in the Sanctuary and Control were elevated.

While putting out the tracking pads a further 9 rat bodies were seen, killed since the check the week before. All were ship rats with 4 juvenile rat bodies under one trap.

Summary

It is very early days in this two year project.

While the tracking tunnel index of 24% was relatively high it is in keeping with autumn results from previous years. The traps have been 100% reliable and kills are occurring well after the bait had been refreshed indicating acceptable longevity of the bait. Some 18 bodies have been sighted, including one kiore. Camera footage has not shown a kill but does give some indication of the behaviour of the animals when they are at a trap site. The one kiore caught on camera was much more cautious and kept its distance. The ship rats were much bolder, licked the bait off the tree, and explored the trap but did not put their head up into the device.

Traps will be checked again at the end of May and incidental sightings of bodies noted. Next tracking tunnel run will be in July with a chew card monitor planned for spring.

Judy Gilbert

Sanctuary Manager