

Rabbit Cage Trap Instructions, Procedures and Conditions

Property of Mosman Council

Please return when not in use.

Contact Mosman Council Open Space Officers Ph: 9978 4000 or
Council@mosman.nsw.gov.au

Rabbit Trapping Procedures

1. Call local vet or a council appointed vet to inform them that you are trapping feral rabbits and if captured they will need to be euthanised.

(**Note:** cost of euthanasiation of rabbits is at the cage operator/ property owner's expense therefore it is advisable to check costs before undertaking trapping)

2. Select an appropriate, sheltered site for the trap to be located.
3. Bait the trap and surrounding areas with veggie scraps, herbs, Lucerne etc. There are a number of baits/lures which have proven to be very successful. These include cut apples, watermelon, peanut paste & jam (either on the plate itself or spread on bread) and placed at rear of plate.
4. Free feed the rabbits for at least the first two of nights to encourage the rabbits to become familiar with the trap. Free feeding is undertaken by fixing the trap by placing a stick in the trap door to allow rabbit to enter and leave without striking the tipping mechanism. The feed should be spread around and in the cage.

Trapping

1. Traps should only be set in the early evening and most importantly checked in the early morning. Trapped animals can suffer from exposure, thirst, starvation, shock and predation; therefore traps must be placed in a suitable area protected from extremes of weather and inspected at least once daily.
2. All traps should be monitored regularly. Guidelines on the humane approach to trapping animals developed by the Department of Primary Industry (RES001 'Live capture of pest animals used in research') should be followed. No cage should be left over 24 hours without checking to see if an animal has been trapped. If a non-target species has been trapped the animal should be released in a well sheltered area. (Note: it is an offence under *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*)

to remove and/or relocate native animals to other sites). If the non-target animal has an injury, they should be taken to the vet immediately.

3. Trapped animals must be approached carefully and quietly to minimize panic and stress
4. Trapped animals should not be kept in the cage for more than 12 hours.
5. Ensure accurate records are kept of species trapped including numbers of rabbits captured and any non-target species captured. This information should be recorded and once completed forwarded to Mosman Council in writing or emailed to council@mosman.nsw.gov.au
6. At the end of the trapping program, the cage traps should be cleaned using soap and water, rinsed and dried. After the trap has been cleaned, the cage must be returned to Mosman Council Chambers.