

Wild Rabbit Trapping Program Operating Guide

Council's cage traps are easy to use and a humane way to trap wild rabbits. They are not to be used for any other purpose or to capture any other species.

Please ensure you read this operating guide in full before using the cage trap. The person conducting the trapping and in possession of any trapped animals must abide by the *Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* and in the case of native animals the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

This guide is to be used in tandem with the other documents supplied to you when collecting the cage trap. If you have any queries, please contact Council on 1300 434 434 and request to talk to the Invasive Species Team.

1. Place the trap in a sheltered spot that doesn't get full sun for extended periods. The trap should be located in an area away from domestic animals and placed where it won't be tampered with. Do not trap during extremely hot or cold weather periods or during storm events.



2. Open the trap by lifting the bar across the front of the gate while raising the gate at the same time. Secure the gate in the open position by placing the top of the latch onto the hook located at the top of the cage.



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3. Bait the trap with fresh carrot, lettuce, fresh veggie scraps, garden herbs, etc. Lay the bait at the entrance and rear of the trap behind the treadle plate to lure the animal inside.



4. The gate will close when an animal steps on the treadle inside the trap (located behind the newspaper in the picture).



5. All traps should be monitored twice daily to see if an animal has been trapped. The trapping monitoring sheet needs to be completed every day the trap is set. Please ensure to record the capture of target and non-target animals.



Trapped Animals

Rabbits

Rabbits are to be taken to one of the vets on the list provided at the earliest possible time to be humanely euthanised.

Nuisance cats

Report the capture of nuisance cats to Council's Compliance team for further directions from an authorised officer.

Native animals

Native animals should be released before dawn or after last light by opening the trap and leaving it open till the animal leaves. If needed cover the cage, provide water and keep it in a quiet sheltered place out of the heat of the day until the animal can be released at the next appropriate time.

Ensure domestic animals can't harass the native animal. It is an offence under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 to harm, remove or relocate native animals to other sites. If a native animal appears to be injured contact Sydney Wildlife on 02 9413 4300 or WIRES on 1300 094 737 for assistance.

Off-target domestic animals

Domestic animals should be returned to owners where they can be identified. If a domestic animal is injured or the owner cannot be identified please take the animal to Council's impounding vets, namely Pittwater Animal Hospital or Collaroy Veterinary Service for treatment, or for the owner to be identified.

Returning the Trap and Bond Refund

Cage traps must be cleaned using soap and water, rinsed and dried. Your trap will not be accepted if it is dirty.

For the cage trap hire bond to be refunded the cage must be returned to one of our Customer Service Centres clean and in working order along with the completed trapping monitoring sheet.