



Predator Free BOP

Key messages



This document has been created to help guide those involved with Predator Free BOP to ensure consistency of message when describing Predator Free BOP. You can use these when looking to add something into a newsletter or developing a media release.

Purpose

- To engage 1 in 5 community households in long term backyard trapping and recording of results to reduce rat and mice numbers. To get 1:5 ratio we need around 11,000 traps in Tauranga City and around 2,000 traps in Western Bay region.
- To improve the environment for native wildlife within urban areas.

Desired outcomes for the project and community

- Decrease in rat and mice numbers (One rat can kill 50 native birds in its lifetime)
- Increase in local bird, invertebrate and lizard numbers.
- Increasing numbers of engaged community practicing predator control.
- Maintained levels of community trapping and recording.
Increased number of community members engaged in predator control in adjacent reserves and parks.
- Increased number of communities engaged in biodiversity projects.

Who is involved?

- A collaboration between BOP Regional Council, Tauranga City Council, Western BOP District Council, Envirohub, NZ Landcare Trust, Department of Conservation & Bay Conservation Alliance.
- The Predator Free BOP Coordinator is based at Envirohub and is available 2 days per week to support community groups getting started.
- Tauranga Menz Shed and Te Puke Menz Shed cut and/or build the trap boxes. Some communities choose to build the trap boxes.
- Community groups form to engage their community, distribute the boxes and support their trappers to maintain momentum.
- Predator Free BOP is aligned with Predator Free 2050 and links to the bigger picture of predator control in local reserves, productive land, forests and national parks such as Kaimai Mamaku Forest Ranges Forum.

- Other groups across the BOP have similar initiatives forming, such as Whakatane Halo.

How do we do it?

1. Check out the predatorfreebop.nz website, Facebook page or local newspaper to see if your community is trapping and where to get your trap.
2. Register your trap using the form on the predatorfreebop.nz website, when collecting the trap and a little house will appear on the front page website map. This can easily be done using a smartphone or tablet.
3. Set your trap with peanut butter (they prefer un-salted crunchy), milk chocolate, bacon, or nuts such as walnut and slide it into your trapping box.
4. Place in a dark place along the fence or a building or in the bush. Beside your compost bin is a good place. Make sure it is somewhere you go often so you remember to check it twice a week throughout the year.
5. Check twice a week to clear dead rats or mice and/or to refresh your bait and reset your trap.
6. If you catch something, we recommend you bury it and remember to log your kill on the www.predatorfreebop.nz website or ask someone from your community group to log it for you.

Why traps and boxes?

- Traps avoid the contentious issue of using poison and give a confirmed kill.
- If you currently use poison, and prefer to, keep it up.
- The boxes mean:
 - No small fingers or paws can reach the trap when it is placed halfway down the box.
 - The rat or mouse won't take the trap away with it.
 - The rat or mouse will be killed in a more humane way as it will enter straight, head first into the trap.
 - Traps are protected from the weather. However trap maintenance such as oiling the metals parts is important to keep the traps in top-notch working condition.

Important reminders:

- So we can monitor the success of this project, we need to know how many you are catching and when. Please log your kill on the www.predatorfreebop.nz website or ask someone from your community group to log it for you.
- 'Pests don't rest' so keep your traps clean with fresh bait and always set, ready to go. Make it a habit, like taking out your compost or putting your washing out.
- If you already have a rat or mouse trap, use bait or have a rodent hunting cat, you can also log your kills on the www.predatorfreebop.nz website.