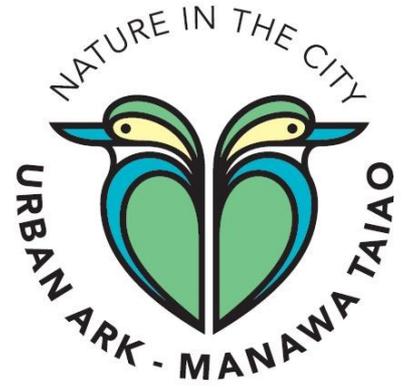


How to trap a rat



Thanks for joining a community-wide effort to control predators across the inner west of Tāmaki Makaurau. Together we can make Auckland safer for native birds and other wildlife.

Stay safe

Avoid injury — keep fingers clear of business end of trap.

Avoid infection — wear gloves and wash hands after setting and clearing traps.

Choose a location for your trap

Along a wall or the top of a fence - rats like to follow them.

Near an obvious food source e.g. compost bin, rubbish area, fruiting trees etc.

Place it so that predators have a clear view through both ends – this will make them less cautious about entering.

Make the trap stable. Rats are put off by something that moves when they try to enter.

If you're not catching anything, try a different location.

Bait

Use peanut butter – rats love it. Crunchy is best, but smooth is okay if that's all you've got.

You can also try mayo, Nutella, chocolate etc. Experiment a little.

Set your trap

For instructions visit urbanark.nz/resources/trapping-resources/setting-rat-traps/

By placing your trap in the wooden tunnel well away from where the rat enters you:

- Ensure kids and pets cannot get hurt.
- Ensure rats approach the trap straight-on and are killed humanely.

Check your traps

Check your traps at least twice a week.

A trap with a dead rat in it isn't ready to catch the next passing rat.

Insects often eat the peanut butter, and a trap with no bait isn't going to catch a rat.

Extracting a recently dead rat is preferable to a cleaning out a rotting one.

Disposal

Drop your catches into your compost bin and cover with compost.

Drop them into your outside rubbish bin and it will magically be taken away.

Pulsing

Checking your traps year-round is ideal, but that requires dedication. Here comes ANJA to the rescue. We focus on four pulses each year: **August**, **November**, **January** and **April**. Keeping your traps set, and checked every couple of days, during these four months is most effective based on the rat reproductive cycle.

Recording your catches

To make our work more effective and to aid research, we need to know when people are catching predators.

Make sure you pass on information about what you catch to your group leader. Even telling us that you've checked your trap and caught nothing is useful data.