

STOAT & RAT TRAP CHECK LIST

Follow this check list to help get the best out of your trapping.

Always wear gloves when handling traps or catches, for hygiene and to prevent disease.

- Open the trap with the lid resting across the box, not 'hanging'.
- Remove any catches from the trap. If the trap is empty, use a sock or soft item to set the trap off.
- Clean the trap, mechanism and box and clear the entranceway of grass.
- Record the trap catch and status on your data capture app or notebook.
- While the trap is unset, ensure that the box is level, stable and doesn't wiggle.
- Carry out any minor maintenance required (applying new nails or screws, securing mesh ends).
- Make sure entranceways are smooth and free of sharp edges or sprags.
- Change the lure in the trap, such as peanut butter, erayze or mutton fat.
- Reset the trap. If using a double-set, ensure a safety clip is used while setting the second trap.
- Scuff the ground at trap entrances, and blaze flour lure in scuff and on trees near the trap.
- Step back and look at the trap. Is there anything that could be better? Ensure you have all your gear before moving on to the next trap.

Remember that regular maintenance of traps is important; calibrate them at the right weight and make sure they're operating well.

For more information, go to predatorfreenz.org

Thanks to Cam Speedy from Wildlife Management Associates Ltd.

