

# WAIREPO GCO

## POSSUM CONTROL - FACTSHEET



### What's happening?

Possums are a vector of bovine tuberculosis (TB) spreading the disease through direct contact with stock. To eliminate the risk of bovine TB spreading in domestic stock, TBfree NZ has implemented a possum control operation in the TB Management Area known as **Wairepo**

### Where is it happening?

This operation covers 11,088 ha starting along the western faces of Lake Ohau and extending south until the Henburn Road.

Refer to map overleaf.

### When will this happen?

The operation is to be completed between the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2022 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2023. Excell personnel will keep in close contact with landholders regarding exact timeframes and methods on individual properties.

### Who will do the survey?

Excell Biosecurity has been contracted by TBfree New Zealand to undertake the work.

### Who is Excell?

Excell Biosecurity have experienced staff and depot facilities located from Kaikoura in the north to Cromwell in the south. All staff are trained professionals with high levels of skill and experience in all aspects of vertebrate pest control and survey work.

### What control methods are being used?

Due to the varied land use in the area a variety of methods are proposed. The methods used on each property will be discussed and agreed with the landholder prior to work commencing.

## WARNING: POISONS ARE TOXIC TO PEOPLE AND ANIMALS - DO NOT TOUCH



Feratox (bait bag)

### Potassium Cyanide (POISON)

#### Feratox (in bait bags)

Feratox is a small capsule containing cyanide poison (about the size of a small pea). In bait bags the cyanide capsule has been placed into a green non-toxic peanut paste inside a small blue biodegradable bag. The blue bags are attached to trees and fence posts in possum habitat approximately 50 cm off the ground. In areas where stock are present, bait will be placed above stock height.

#### Cyanide paste (hand-laid)

Potassium cyanide paste (green) will be placed on the ground in selected areas of possum habitat. Lure will be laid alongside the green paste bait. In areas where stock are present, bait will be placed above stock height.



Cyanide paste

#### Feratox (in bait stations)

Feratox is a small capsule containing cyanide poison (about the size of a small pea). Feratox will be contained within Romark, Striker and/or KK bait stations (see bait station types below).



## Sodium Fluoroacetate (POISON)

### 1080 (in bait stations)

1080 pellets may also be used in select areas at the Northern end of the operational area and will either be hand broadcast or be contained within Philproof and/or Indac bait stations (see bait station types below).

### What bait stations are being used?

Indac



Striker



Romark



KK



Philproof



Cyanide paste

### What trapping methods are being used?

**Leghold traps and kill traps:** These are set in areas away from domestic animals in habitat where possums frequent. Leghold traps are checked daily.

**Cage traps:** Any non-target animals caught in a cage trap can be released without injury. Cage traps are checked on a daily basis and are ideal for use near dwellings.

**Dog and gun:** Dog and gun may be used on this operation in conjunction with other control methods, and in areas where traps or toxins may not be suitable. The dogs are very efficient at locating possums, which are then dealt with by the handler (using a firearm). Firearms will not be used within 500m of any dwellings.

### What do you need to know about poisons?

When using poisons (pesticides) there is a poisoning risk to humans and domestic animals. Poisoning can occur by eating poisonous baits, however there is a very low risk of secondary poisoning with Feratox (i.e. dogs eating possum carcasses).

Dogs and cats must not enter areas where 1080 is being used.

### General warning!

Poison warning signs will be in place and maintained throughout the operation to advise where poisons have been used. The area should be treated with caution until signs are removed.

- Baits are toxic to people and animals.
- Do not touch poison bait.
- Do not touch traps.
- Poison bait or carcasses are deadly to dogs.
- Watch children at all times.
- Tell any visitors to the area of the danger.
- Follow the advice on the poison warning signs.

### What do I do if I suspect poisoning?

In the case of poisoning, always contact your:

- Local Hospital, Medical Centre or dial 111
- National Poisons Centre 0800 764 766

In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.

**Who do I contact for  
more information?**

Project Supervisor  
Southern South Island  
0508 EXCELL (0508 392 355)  
[office@excellcorp.co.nz](mailto:office@excellcorp.co.nz)



## Wairepo GCO 2022/23



Activity: Ground Control Output  
Customer: TBfree NZ Ltd  
Contractor: Excell Biosecurity  
Subcontractor: n/a

Map Series:	Topo250
Map Prepared:	16/06/2022

Coordinate System: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator

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