

# TRAPPING NETWORK

## NETWORKS OF TRAPS

Whether you're doing rat control for conservation or to protect domestic sites, the best results are achieved when you have a network of devices in place. It's the best way to prevent reinvasion because you've increased the chances of every rodent encountering a trap. The principles are similar wherever you're trapping.

## CONSERVATION NETWORKS

Effective conservation projects are about steady and organised management of a network. Here are some general guides for groups and persons wanting to set up a conservation network:

### Trap density

Rat networks should consist of trapping lines 100 m apart with A24s spaced at 50 m along those trapping lines. Population density of rats is determined by food availability. Rat home-ranges in New Zealand forests tend to be about 50-100 m in radius, depending on the forest type. 2 traps per hectare is DOC best practice for rat control.

### Work with the contour

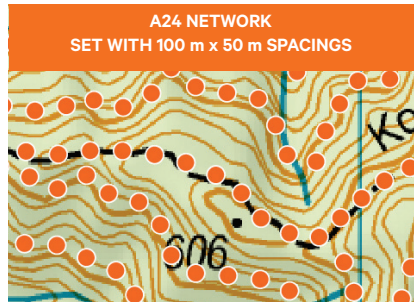
While adhering as best you can to the prescribed network density, you should use the contour and any existing track infrastructure to make your lay-out easy. It will also help when it comes time to do your 6 monthly maintenance rounds.

### Marking and plotting

Use flagging tape to mark your trapping lines so it's easy in the future for you and your team to find their way through the bush during the 6 monthly maintenance rounds. If you have a GPS device then plot the location of each of your traps as well.

## BROADEN YOUR CONTROL

Creating great habitat for our native birds means making a healthy forest, therefore build possum control into your network with Goodnature A12s (set at 100 m x 100 m spacings) and target some of your A24s for stoats using Goodnature's stoat



formula. You should have 1 x A24 trap targeted for stoats per 10 hectares.

## MONITORING SUCCESS

It can take a couple of breeding seasons to start seeing the fruits of your labour. A very easy way to see your impact is to observe what's on the forest floor – the presence of seeds, seedlings and fungus are all great indicators. You can use Goodnature Counters to gather data, but be aware that Counters only show trap activity – they are not a measure of rat abundance. Department of Conservation science has repeatedly demonstrated that Goodnature trap networks are highly effective and efficient in recovering native species populations because they provide constant control.

## DOMESTIC NETWORKS

**Don't have a one-trap mind!** While you may not be protecting hundreds of hectares of native forest, having networks at home, on the farm or at work will enhance your success. Bear in mind that food distribution varies greatly in these settings and, because of this, rat home ranges will vary as well. Therefore it's essential you use Goodnature Rodent Detector Cards before establishing your domestic A24 network as they enable you to find the best places to install your traps.