

WHAT'S IN YOUR TRAP?

Learn about:

- > Rodents
- > Mustelids
- > Possums
- > Hedgehogs
- > Feral cats



info@piroaconservation.org.nz

RODENTS

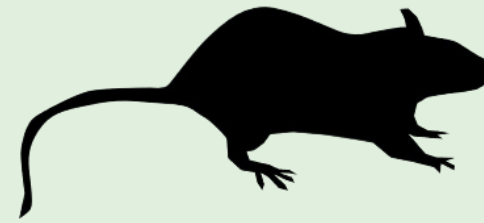
> Ship rats

- Also known as the black rat or roof rat.
- Most common type of rats in Northland forests.
- Agile & excellent climber.
- Nocturnal & omnivorous.



> Norway rats

- Also known as the brown rat or water rat as it is usually found near water.
- Excellent swimmer.
- Common in wet habitats and urban areas.



What are the differences between a Ship rat and a Norway rat?

- 15 to 20cm with a very long tail (around 20cm).
- Very long thin ears.
- Variable coat colour from black to light brown



- Thick tail shorter than head and body length.
- Small and ugly ears
- Large and robust rat.

MUSTELIDS

> Stoats

- Middle sized (40cm average).
- Cinnamon coloured with white underbelly.
- Bushy, black tipped tail.
- Survive on wide variety of prey including kiwi chicks.



> Weasels

- Smallest of the Northland mustelids at 20cm long.
- Deep brown to light tan with a white belly.
- Short tail (no black tip).
- Prey on small animals including mice, small birds, eggs, lizards and insects.



> Ferrets

- NZ has the largest known population of wild ferrets in the world.



- Largest of the three mustelids (48-56cm long & up to 1.5kg).
- Dark facial mask & creamy coloured body.
- Nocturnal.
- Prey on rabbits, rodents, frogs, lizards, insects, possums, eggs and birds (including adult kiwi!)

\$100 reward
- dead or alive!

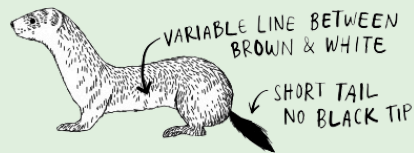


MUSTELIDS

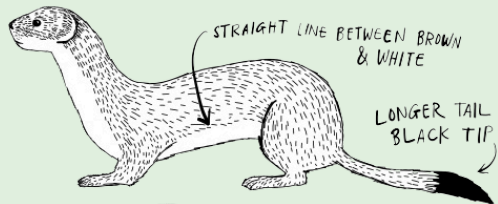


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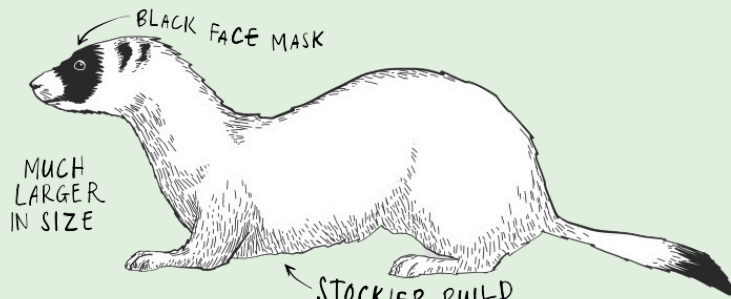
Difference between weasels, stoats and ferrets:



WEASEL



STOAT



FERRET



Source: Predator Free NZ

POSSUMS

- Introduced to New Zealand from Australia in the 19th century.
- Estimated population of up to 15 million possums in Northland (NRC).
- In Northland, average adult possums weight 2-3 kg.
- Live in trees but also grazes on pasture.
- Dislike wet weather which makes it easier to control in fine weather.



- Disrupt ecological processes and destroy forest canopies.
- Active hunter during the night and sleep during the day.
- Both a food competitor and a predator for native wildlife.
- Prey on the eggs and chicks, and other invertebrates.
- Also eat leaves, twigs, and berries.

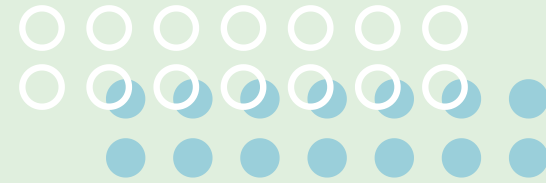


Trapping tips:

- Respond well to changes in trap positions and different types of baits (think about the visual, smell and taste!).
- Seem to love fruits - try oranges cut in small pieces.

FERAL CATS

- Active hunter during the day and night.
- Predator of native wildlife including insects, eels, fish, lizards, frogs, and birds.
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- It is estimated that feral, stray and pet cats kill up to 100 million birds in New Zealand each year.

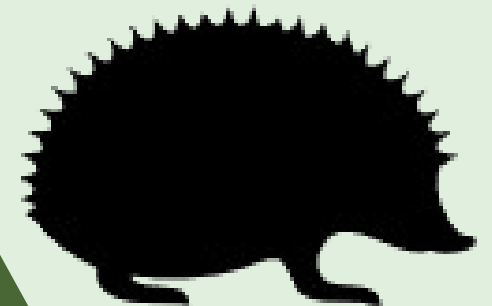


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HEDGEHOGS

- Surprisingly abundant and challenging to control.
- Eat mainly insects, but also birds and lizards.
- Prey on the eggs of dotterels and other ground-nesting birds.
- Lives in a wide range of habitats, including backyards and farmland.
- Hedgehogs and North Island brown kiwi have a 70-80 percent overlap in preferred foods.





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