

OANRP Rodent Standard Operating Procedures

The “rat way”

A24 Setting Instructions

Installation:

- Find a straight tree with a clear footing. Can be set up to a 45 degree angle only if no straight trees can be found.
- Set on up-slope side of tree
- Bottom of bracket should be 10-12cm from the ground. May need to clear dirt on upslope side to allow for clearance of the co2 canister.

Trap checking routine:

- Look for any carcasses. (record)
- If counter present press button firmly once to display number of strikes. (record)
- Remove trap from mounting bracket.
- If bracket is becoming too tight, loosen screws a couple of turns. Do this when needed or during 6 month co2 change.
- Unscrew lid.
- Unscrew bait bottle.
- Test trigger from top of trap (record pass/fail).
- Clean all old bait and mold from bottle and smear below mounting bracket.
- Apply new bait to bottle. Ensure bait is squeezed through the plastic screen on the bottle. The plastic screen needs to be present, if not replace bait bottle with one that has. (record)
- Smear small amount of fresh bait below bracket.
- Screw bait bottle back into trap.
- Screw lid back on.
- Change co2 if it was empty or if it is the 6 month Co2 change. *Note: you do not need to trigger the trap again.
- Click trap back onto mounting bracket.
- Reset counter if present by depressing the button for ~5 seconds.

Every 6 months:

- Ensure flagging is maintained and trap number is visible.
- Remove trap from mounting bracket, loosen screws on brackets if needed.
- Drain co2 from trap and trigger until safe.
- Use alcohol wipes and clean inside of trap, trigger, bait bottle and bracket.
- Replace co2, then click trap back onto mounting bracket
- Do this to all traps within the grid generally in January and June.

If you get familiar with this routine you will be checking traps the “rat way” in no time. Please be sure to follow these guidelines, this will not only standardize the way in which we check traps it will allow us to monitor efficacy better.

Kamate Snap Trap Protocol

Installation on trees:

- In the field locate a horizontal or 45 degree branch
- Place the trap with the trigger facing the trunk of the tree (not the canopy).
- Use two screws to secure the trap to the tree (can also use parachute cord if screws are not wanted)
- If only vertical trees are present the trap should be mounted with the trigger ~12cm from the ground, facing down.
- Gps, number and flag location

Baiting and checking:

- Record observations (take ~10 seconds to search for hair on the trap)
- Trigger trap if set (this allows for the tension to be observed)
- Clean any old bait, hair, deep rust or debris off of the trap with a wire brush
- Ensure trap is secured, re-tie parachute cord or adjust screws if necessary
- Make sure red safety tabs are in place and disabled after setting trap
- Bait the trap with fresh coconut, ensure coconut is not set too far behind trigger

Trap maintenance:

- Replace traps when needed
- During the 3rd quarter check the screws and further inspect the springs for signs of damage, replace if needed

Victor Snap Trap Protocol

Installation in box:

- Transport boxes into the field and place on trails where flat
- Place the operator end towards the trail for ease of checking
- Secure with metal rod (optional)
- Gps, number and flag location

Installation on trees:

- At the shop drill two holes in the top half of the trap to use for securing via screws
- In the field locate a horizontal or 45 degree branch
- Place the trap with the yellow tab facing the trunk of the tree (not the canopy).
- Use two screws to secure the trap to the tree (can also use parachute cord if screws are not wanted)
- If only vertical trees are present the trap should be mounted with the yellow tab ~12cm from the ground, facing down.
- Gps, number and flag location

Baiting and checking:

- Record observations (take ~10 seconds to search for hair on the trap)
- Trigger trap if set (this allows for the tension to be observed)
- Clean any old bait, hair, deep rust or debris off of the trap with a wire brush
- Ensure trap is secured, re-tie parachute cord or adjust screws if necessary
- Bait the tab with peanut butter (~12cm X 12cm X 30cm)
- Set the trap to the “S” setting (S refers to sensitive, F refers to firm)
- Ensure that the tab is not set too high
- Brand new traps can be set to the “F” setting for the first couple of checks and the tab can be set a little higher to ensure traps aren’t being set off due to weather

Annual Trap maintenance:

- All victor snap traps will be removed from the field annually for maintenance during the 3rd quarter
- Bring the correct amount of traps to the field to replace the ones that are being pulled
- Clear all rat trails, re-fresh flagging, update map and forms
- At the shop remove all yellow tabs and place in buckets of cleaning solution and water. Scrub all tabs until clean. Dry tabs
- Use a pressure washer or hose to clean wooden traps free of debris and hair. Dry traps, discard badly chewed or broken tabs.
- Dip traps in linseed oil and set on plywood stacked at an angle to dry.
- Replace yellow tab and wrap parachute cord around the trap

Trap is ready to store until re-deployment!

Tracking Tunnel Protocol

Installation: To be done 1 month prior to setting first tracking cards

- Carry tunnels into the field un-assembled for ease of transportation
- Assemble tunnel
- Find a flat location along trail
- Place tunnel with longer sides on top to act as rain shields
- Use two metal U-wires to firmly stabilize the tunnel
- Gps, number, and flag the location.
- Pre-bait with “quarter” size peanut butter directly in the middle on the inside of the tunnel

Set out tracking cards on the first day:

- Record date, observer, and tunnel number on the card
- Place a “quarter” size amount of peanut butter directly in the middle of the ink on the card.
- Place in tunnel making sure card is flat and at the bottom of tunnel

Retrieve tracking cards the day after setting them:

- Bring gallon size Ziploc to place cards in
- Remove card from the tunnel taking care not to touch the tracking surface of the card
- Remove any bait from the card with a stick or gloved finger
- Fold the card and place in gallon Ziploc bag.

Recording data:

- At the office record onto a data sheet presence of tracks for each species (one card can have multiple species).