

## Integrated Pest Management

### Natural

Rats are preyed on by cats, dogs, owls, hawks, eagles and snakes. However, none of these have been shown to be effective at controlling rat populations. Other animals should never be introduced to control rats.

Trapping is a great option to catch all species of rats and help with identifying what species is present. More than 3 nights of trapping should be completed.

Monitoring the number of rats is also recommended. This can be done by rat traps, tracking tunnels. They are a relatively cheap method for checking for rats in known areas and possible areas of concern.

Some countries, such as New Zealand, use dogs specifically trained to detect rats. Especially in conservation and transport areas. Predator-proof fencing has also been successful.

### Trapping

Traps are a traditional way to catch and kill rats and mice. They can be effective if they are good traps, set and baited properly and placed in the best positions. But if traps are poorly designed, are not set and baited properly or are set in poor positions they can be inhumane and ineffective.

Traps can also be used in places where using chemicals might not be a good idea such as in the kitchen or where pets and children might access rodenticides.

The best baits for rats are bacon (raw, un-smoked), peanut butter, lard, dried fruit, dog biscuit and grain.

Rats may take several days to 'get used' to the trap in their environment before they enter the trap for the bait. You may consider placing the trap unset in position for a couple of days so they get used to it before baiting and setting it.

References:

<http://coconutpests.org/pests-and-diseases-of-coconut/rats>

<https://www.kiwicare.co.nz/advice/pests/trapping-rats-and-mice>