Traps

- Wire mesh cage traps are used. These can be obtained from commercial suppliers and are available in a variety of sizes (e.g., 740 x 310 x 310 mm, made of 2.5 mm welded wire with a mesh size of 12.5 x 25 mm). The traps have a spring door that is activated either by a treadle plate or hook mechanism. Only traps with treadle plates are recommended for catching rabbits as the hook mechanism is only suitable for attaching meat baits to catch predators.

Procedures

Selection of trap sites

- Traps should be set in areas where rabbits are known to be active, e.g., around warrens or where rabbit droppings are present around pasture.
- Free feeding with bait, e.g., diced carrot, for a number of nights before setting traps will help identify likely trapping sites as well as enhancing capture rates.
- The location of all trap sites and number of traps must be accurately recorded and marked. This information should be readily available to others in case the trapper is unable to return to check the traps.
- Do not place traps in areas where they may be interfered with or damaged by large stock or humans.

Setting of traps

- It is preferable to set traps at the end of each day and check early each morning. Traps should be left open during the day.
- Before setting each trap ensure that it is functioning properly.
- Diced carrot is the preferred bait for attracting rabbits into traps. However, in some circumstances alternatives can be used such as in and around horticultural crops where rabbits are a problem, e.g., use broccoli where this is the crop being damaged.

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