



Ferret



Stoat



Weasel

DESCRIPTION

Mustelids is the collective name for ferrets, stoats and weasels. Mustelids are a group of small to medium sized carnivores. Ferrets are the largest of the three species. The adult male ferret is, on average, about 40 cm long, the stoat 30 cm, and the weasel 20 cm.

Mustelids have a large home range. They can be active either day or night. They search for prey through all possible cover, down every accessible hole and up every likely tree. Killing behaviour is independent of hunger. Mustelids will, if the opportunity arises, kill any suitable prey that they can, and store the surplus for future use.

Mustelids are widely distributed in low densities throughout the region and, along with feral cats, have been blamed for the rapid decline in kiwi numbers in Taranaki.

VALUES AT RISK

Ecological values

Mustelids prey on native birds, lizards and insects.

Animal health and farm production

Particularly through their role as a vector (carrier) of bovine tuberculosis.

STRATEGY RULES

There is no rule requiring you to control ferrets, stoats or weasels. Any control is voluntary.

HOW TO CONTROL MUSTELIDS

Poisoning

Using *Pestoff ferret paste*. Best applied in summer through to autumn.

Trapping

Using purpose built traps such as *Fenn* kill traps, and *Fenn* tunnel traps or the Ferret wooden box traps.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.hbrc.govt.nz

www.horizons.govt.nz

www.gw.govt.nz

PUBLICATIONS

King, EM: The Handbook of New Zealand Mammals. Oxford Press, Auckland, 1995

For further advice or information about pest animal management contact:

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