

Bunnybait Feral Rabbit Control Pindone-treated oats

With information received from a leading vertebrate pest control company covering more than a decade of intensive rabbit control operations, many if not most suburban/industrial rabbit populations involve situations where control by fencing, warren destruction or fumigation is simply not sufficient to achieve a high reduction or is too expensive to carry out.

Rabbits commonly live under buildings or in dense cover and it is impossible to cover all these situations. Here the most effective control consists of strategic poisoning with the anticoagulant poison, pindone (similar to rat poison), combined with one or more of the above.

Pindone is one of two poisons registered for rabbit control. The other poison is sodium fluoroacetate or "1080", which is normally used in rural areas only. 1080 cannot be used in built-up areas because of the dangers of secondary poisoning of dogs and cats (which may eat rabbit carcasses). Pindone has the great advantage of being what we call a chronic poison (i.e. one in which the animal requires several feeds before sufficient toxic action is caused to induce death).

Like other anticoagulant poisons (e.g. Ratsak), pindone causes death by preventing the normal clotting of blood and animals ingesting a lethal amount die of internal haemorrhage. Because it requires several feeds, is slow-acting, and does not build up in the food chain, pindone is a far safer poison (in terms of ingestion by humans or pets) than 1080.

However, some precautions are necessary in the case of wildlife and pets and these are outlined on the next page. Your appropriate State or Territory Government Department will give some advice and literature on the various options available.

Usually, these resolve down to one or more of four options:

- Exclusion fencing
- Removal of surface cover (rabbit harbour)
Fumigation and/or destruction of rabbit warrens
- Target-specific poisoning of rabbits

- ✓ **Effective to control rabbits**
- ✓ **Pindone-based poison oats**
- ✓ **Dry weather treatment only**
- ✓ **Palatable to rabbits**



Pack Sizes:

Available in 2.5kg, 5kg, 10kg



Application:

For optimum results, bait should be offered on three occasions at 3 to 5 day intervals. Apply the bait at the rate applicable to the land area and rabbit density, in the location where control is required.

Directions for use:

Amount of Bait:

Sufficient bait is required to enable all rabbits in an area to eat several grams of bait each, every application. Sufficient bait should be provided such that about 20% of bait remains on the morning after the feed. Rabbits will consume the residue the following evening. Use of a ploughed furrow (2.5 cm deep using a hoe or mattock) will help bring rabbits onto the bait trail. As a general guide, the amount of bait required is outlined in the table below:

Density of Rabbits	Low	Medium	High
Estimated by spotlight transect	< 20 rabbits/km	21 - 50 rabbits/km	> 50 rabbits/km
Kg bait per km trail*	3	6	9

*Note: Since rabbits eat less oats than carrots, the amount of bait required is less when using oat baits.

PRECAUTIONS:

What about pets and wildlife?

If dogs and cats were to eat many grams of pindone-treated oats daily over a period of several days, they may well exhibit symptoms of poisoning. However, in practice, few carnivores are attracted to oats and little if any is eaten. The more likely danger to dogs and cats comes from their possible ingestion of poisoned rabbit carcasses over an extended period. If dogs or cats are allowed to feed on poisoned rabbit carcasses over several days, it is possible that they may develop symptoms of anticoagulant poisoning and die (if not treated). The risk is considered as low but not zero. For this reason, you are required by regulations to pick up and burn or deep-bury all poisoned rabbit carcasses. Note that the onset of symptoms is such that plenty of warning is usually given in pets (they become sluggish and there is a pronounced whitening in the gums) and an effective antidote, Vitamin K1, is available. Dogs and cats should not be allowed free (unrestrained) access to poisoned areas during the course of the poisoning operation and thereafter until all carcasses have been removed.

Health & Safety Issues

In the case of pindone poison, human risks involved during normal rabbit baiting operations are considered to be very low. There are no known human fatalities due to pindone poisoning in Australia, largely because of the very large quantities of bait required to produce toxic effects. In addition to the requirement to pick up all dead rabbits, all poisoned areas must be properly indicated with prescribed signs (provided in all Aldi BunnyBait packs), and neighbours must be notified of the intention to lay baits.

Restraints

DO NOT use except for the control of rabbits in accordance with the directions of the appropriate State and Territory Government Department, under the appropriate State and Territory legislation. DO NOT apply baits during wet weather or if rain is likely within 24 hours.