



Cyanide (Feratox)

Possum control in your area

We will be using cyanide baits to kill possums in your area. This is part of the national effort to eliminate the disease Bovine tuberculosis (Tb) from livestock.

WARNING!

- Cyanide is extremely toxic and fast acting
- Keep children out of the poison areas
- Do not touch the baits

Cyanide baiting

Cyanide has been used for possum control in New Zealand since the 1960s. We use a hard pellet cyanide bait called Feratox. Possums have to chew and crack the pellet to release the cyanide poison. Cyanide baits are green.



Feratox pellet or block baits are placed in bait bags with prefeed, and stapled to trees 0.5 to 2 metres above the ground.

IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL POISONING DIAL 111

Risk profile

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| Humans | Very toxic | Do not touch baits, keep children away. |
| Dogs | Moderate | Do not allow dogs to access bait or carcasses. |
| Cats | Low | Do not allow cats to access bait. |
| Livestock | Low | Do not allow livestock to access bait. |
| Environment | Low | Cyanide does not persist in the environment or kill native birds. |

Effects of Cyanide

Humans - One Feratox bait, may kill an adult or child. Keep children away and do not interfere with the baits.

In case of suspected poisoning, dial 111 for an ambulance immediately. Exposure to cyanide will cause immediate onset of dizziness, rapid breathing, headache, drowsiness, unconsciousness and death. If available, use amyl nitrate capsules, broken and held under the nose.

If cyanide was swallowed, give a glass or two of water and cause vomiting by putting a finger down the throat. Repeat until the vomit fluid appears clear. Do not attempt to cause vomiting if the patient is unconscious or convulsing. Use artificial respiration (**mouth to nose**) if breathing has stopped.

Dogs and cats – The risk to dogs and cats is quite low, though it is best to exercise caution and make sure they do not have access to baits or carcasses by keeping them out of the poison area. Should you suspect a dog has ingested cyanide, either directly or from eating a carcass, induce vomiting using an emetic, such as washing soda (sodium carbonate) immediately, and get it to the vet as soon as you can.

Environment – Cyanide does not persist in the environment or the food chain. Accidental poisoning of native species is rare.

WARNING! POISON Take note

_____ baits coloured _____
 and containing the toxin _____
 have been laid for _____ in this area.
 Laid by: _____ BioWorks, GWRC Date: _____

• Do not allow children to wander without careful supervision.
 • Do not allow dogs to roam or scavenge in this vicinity (if dogs are permitted).
 • Do not handle baits, bait stations, bait bags or animal carcasses.
 • Feral animals in this area may contain residues of the toxin and should not be taken for food.
 • It is an offence for any person other than the operator to remove this sign or to remove baits from this area.

BAITS AND BAIT RESIDUES MAY CAUSE ILL HEALTH OR DEATH
IN CASES OF SUSPECTED HUMAN POISONING DIAL 111 OR CALL THE NATIONAL POISON CENTRE 0800 762 766

For additional information contact:
 Greater Wellington Regional Council BioWorks
 PO Box 111
 Wellington 6142
 04 378 2484
 www.gw.govt.nz

All areas where poison is laid are clearly marked with **WARNING** signs.

Benefits of possum control

Disease control – Possums transmit Tb to livestock. Effective possum control will allow us to manage this disease and protect access to international markets for meat and dairy products.

Environment - Possums destroy native forest, and compete with native species for food. They also eat adult native birds, their eggs and their chicks. Populations of many native species such as tui and wood pigeon (kereru) flourish after possum control.

ENQUIRIES
 Greater Wellington
 34 Chapel Street
 P O Box 41
 Masterton
 T 06 378 2484
 F 06 378 2146
 W www.gw.govt.nz

MORE INFORMATION
 The Tb issue
 Benefits of possum control
 Safety Data Sheet
 Pesticides Manual
 Cyanide Environmental Data

www.ahb.org.nz
 www.doc.govt.nz/templates/MultipageDocumentPage.aspx?id=39920
 www.connovation.co.nz/assets/MSDS%20Feratox.pdf
 www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/docts23.pdf
 www.connovation.co.nz/assets/Documents/CYANIDE%20Environmental_1_.pdf

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