

University of Hawai'i IACUC Guidelines on Non-Grant Funded Vermin Control at UH Campus Facilities and by Private Contractors Providing Vermin Control

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Non-grant funded vermin control at the University of Hawai'i (UH) is often carried out by the University Building and Grounds Management, or equivalent campus office. If a UH facility wishes to do their own non-grant funded vermin control or utilize private contractors for vermin control, please consider the following recommendations based on the *Guidelines for the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Mammals in Research (2011)*.

- Live capture
  - Methods of live capture should not injure or cause excessive stress to the animal.
  - Adequate measures should be taken to ensure that the animal is protected from predation and temperature extremes and the animal has food and water available, as needed, until it is released or euthanized.
  - Live traps should be checked daily.
  - For humane reasons, steel foothold traps, snare traps, and glue traps are unacceptable.
  - Animals caught in live traps should be humanely euthanized according to the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia of Animals, 2020 (or latest version).
- Kill trapping
  - Traps should inflict the least amount of trauma and result in a clean, effective kill.
  - Snap traps are acceptable
  - Automatic resetting traps powered by CO2 cartridges are acceptable.
  - Pitfall traps and traps that require drowning are unacceptable.
  - Traps should be checked daily.
- Bait stations
  - Be advised that rodents may eat the bait, and die in remote locations that are not easily reachable, causing carcasses to decompose and release odors, and may pose a hazard to non-target species.
  - Beware of directly or indirectly poisoning non-target species.
- Biological methods
  - If produce is to be sold for human consumption, food certification requirements do not allow biological methods of eradicating vermin.
  - Free-roaming cats may limit the ability for baiting and may present hygiene or accident risks or serve as disease vectors. When cats are present, proper veterinary care and oversight should be provided to these animals. Veterinary Care should include vaccinations, parasite control, and neutering (*Guide for Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 3rd edition*).
- Non-Target species
  - All methods of rodent control must take into account the potential for catching non-target species and determine how injury/death of non-target species will be minimized.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment and follow procedures to minimize your risk of zoonotic disease or injury before engaging in activities involving rodent control. Contact Biosafety and/or Animal and Veterinary Services Programs for more details on mitigating these risks.