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# RACHEL HAD A RAT PROBLEM

📍 Lyall Bay, Wellington

📅 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018



Goodnature A24



## Meet Rachel

One morning while sitting at the kitchen table eating breakfast, Rachel saw a rat pop its head up from under the neighbour's fence. Then another and another... The rats made a dash across the deck and down towards the chicken coop. Rachel realised she had a rat problem.



## The cause

Behind that fence was a safe and warm place – prime habitat for rats to thrive in, with overgrown grass and piles of building materials. Rachel realised she was part of the problem by feeding scraps and pellets to the family's four chickens on a daily basis.



## Ready to install the Goodnature A24

At the site where rats had chewed the Detector Card Rachel installed the A24. Simply following the instructions in the A24 Success Guide she set the trap, installed an Automatic Lure Pump (ALP) and attached the Digital Counter.



## Prefeed for increased success

With the chicken feed under control, the rats were now on the hunt for a new food source, so Rachel generously prefeed the site. She placed dabs of toxin-free Goodnature Rat and Mouse Lure below the A24 and around the site. The rats consumed the prefeed lure and searched for more. One by one they would find the tasty lure in the ALP of the A24 which would fire, self-reset and wait for the next visitor.

Rachel continued to prefeed the site even after the first kills to ensure any other rats at the site would also get a taste of Goodnature Rat and Mouse Lure and be encouraged to search for more.

## The simple steps she took to get success



## The first thing Rachel did was remove the rats' food source

Rachel cleared away any remaining scraps and feed that the family had been throwing into the chicken coop each morning.

She bought a rat-proof chicken feeder for the coop, which kept the chicken food sealed until the chickens approached to eat.

She found that the rats had gnawed holes in the side of the sacks of chicken feed. She placed the sacks in sealed containers that would stop any rats from accessing them.



## Detect the best trapping site

Once the rats' food source had been removed, Rachel placed Rodent Detector Cards around the site to find the best location to start trapping. She chose three sites that looked like places rats might feel safe to investigate them and also where she could easily set the A24. After 3 nights one of the Detector Cards had easily identifiable rat chews. This would be a good location to install the A24.



## Job done

After three weeks the A24 had humanely killed seven rats and counting. Rachel stopped seeing rats come through the fence and no more chicken food was lost. She had fixed her rat problem.

## What next

Rachel knew that wouldn't be the last time she saw rats. Her plan is to continue to pop a few dabs of prefeed around the site every few weeks to lure any re-invading rats. She will also keep ensuring no food scraps are left out so the rats aren't encouraged to return.

To keep the A24 charged and attractive, Rachel also replaces the gas canister and ALP every 6 months.



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# Goodnatures keys to trapping success



## Trapping at sites with other food sources for rats

Food competition can be the biggest barrier to trapping success. Things like compost bins, dog biscuit bags, food stores and chicken feed all provide excellent food sources for rats.

Once rats have a trusted food source, it can take some effort to get them to try something new.

## The simple steps you can take



### 1. Remove any other food sources

Clean any food scraps, feed or food waste from the site.

Eliminate the food source or secure it in a rat-proof container such as an animal feeder or plastic bin.

Shift the food source to another location that rats cannot access.

Temporarily stop the food source. For example, put compost scraps in a secure container for a few weeks to change the rats' habits and get them searching for new food.



### 2. Detect the best trapping site

Place Goodnature's Rodent Detectors around a site, and where rodents have gnawed on them, they've shown you a place where they will interact with the lure and therefore a good location to set your A24s.



### 3. Install your Goodnature A24s

Follow the instructions in the Success Guide provided with the trap to set your A24, install your Automatic Lure Pump (ALP) and attach a Digital Counter if you want to know your kill tally.



### 4. Prefeed for increased success

Use Goodnature's Rat and Mouse Chocolate Formula lure to pre-feed the site. Put up to a dozen pea-sized dabs of lure at ground level within a 20m radius of your trapping site. This introduces the rats to the new food source and causes the rats to search for more of it. The prefeed is the same lure as in the A24 so this will help the rat find their way to the trap.



### 5. Keep up the success

Continue to prefeed around the site every few weeks to lure any new rats in the area.

Replace the gas canister and ALP every 6 months to keep your trap charged and attractive.



### 6. Constant control

If you need to control rats over a large area, rather than shifting your traps it is better to add to the trapping network and increase your pest free area – a Goodnature constant control network.