

NCCAW POSITION STATEMENT NO 37

GLUE BOARDS AND GELS AND METAL-TOOTHED RODENT TRAPS

Principle:

Where a decision has been made that animals must be removed from an area where they are causing damage, removal must be undertaken using the most effective and humane method, and steps then taken to prevent future re-invasion. The use of methods of capturing and killing rodents (and other animals) that cause unnecessary suffering is not supported.

Glue boards and gels:

Description: Glueboards consist of a non-drying adhesive, either attached to one side of a flat surface or contained in a shallow (usually plastic) tray. They are relatively cheap (i.e. \$2 for a pack of 2 for the small 'mouse size', often imported) and are usually meant to be disposed of each time an animal is trapped. Larger boards are available or can be easily assembled, for use with larger animals.

Welfare problem: While glueboards can be described as non-lethal or restraining traps, research indicates that trapped animals may die if permanently adhered to the glueboard, through starvation, dehydration, exhaustion, or if the glue adheres in such a way as to cause suffocation of the animal.

Metal-toothed Rodent Traps:

Description: These rodent traps look similar to 'snap traps' with a spring loaded metal arm, but have an additional sharp metal-toothed edge around the square perimeter of the base. The traps are usually imported and available at a low price, and those that have been examined are of a relatively flimsy construction.

Welfare problem: This toothed edge means that rats or mice (or other small animals) if not killed by the arm, will be likely to have their flesh cut and may be injured or bleed to death.

There are more humane and cost effective alternatives to both of these traps.

Position

NCCAW believes that both Glue Boards and Gels and Metal-toothed Rodent Traps cause unnecessary suffering to trapped rodents and their import, manufacture and use in Australia should be prohibited.