



PROTECTING PARAPARAUMU DUNE PLANTINGS

Whats happening?

Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) has been collaborating with Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) and the Department of Conservation to improve the degraded state of the dune reserve from Tikotu Creek to Waikanae Estuary.

The protection and restoration of coastal sand dunes has been made a national conservation priority because of their threatened native plant and animal communities and their key role in preventing erosion.

Until recently the focus in your area was on controlling invasive weeds and supporting voluntary restoration efforts. The Councils last year started planting native sand binding plants to build a natural 'foredune'. The plan is to plant a wider range of natives further back to replace weeds and help restore the ecosystem.

The problem we are having

Unfortunately rabbits are eating the plants that have been planted to restore the dunes and we need to control them. A small number of rabbits are doing a great deal of damage to plants, chewing them off to ground level and not allowing the establishment of new plantings.

Rabbits love to feed mainly on mown or short grass and we suspect the same rabbits that are damaging the dune plantings will be visiting the lawns and gardens adjoining the dunes.

The best way to control rabbits in this situation is to use a carrot bait coated with an anti-coagulant poison that rabbits are very susceptible to. The best place for this bait is on the private mown lawns where the rabbits feed the most.

Pindone carrot has been used extensively in urban areas, and is very little risk to pets if the simple precautions are followed.

What can I do to help?

It would be fantastic if we could get adjoining landowners on board to assist us with controlling these rabbits. Ideally we would like to arrange the placement of carrot bait onto private back lawns adjoining the dunes. We are keen to hear from people who have rabbits on their properties and would like assistance in controlling them.

Please contact us

If you have rabbits visiting and would like a GW Biosecurity Officer to have a look at the problem please get in touch with us by phoning GW's **Pest Animals section on 04 5265 327** or **send us an email pest.animals@gw.govt.nz** KCDC is willing to cover the cost of the bait which is laid on private land on the western side of Manly Street to protect this dune land.

What is the bait?

The most effective Pindone rabbit bait is produced as diced carrot coated with Pindone solution and dyed green.



Diced carrot coated with Pindone.

Danger to humans

Pindone, like any other poison, is dangerous if eaten. However it is less toxic than other commonly used pesticides. Humans would need to eat very large amounts of the toxic bait for it to be fatal. There have been no accidental fatalities recorded in New Zealand.

Children should be kept away from all poison areas.

Danger to pets

Pindone is less hazardous than other commonly used poisons but care is still necessary to prevent accidental poisoning, either from eating toxic bait or carcasses. The secondary poisoning risk from eating poisoned carcasses is very small.

Carrot is not very attractive to most dogs and cats usually don't eat carrot at all.

If you see pets eating toxic bait, induce vomiting as soon as possible and take them to a vet.

A vet can administer Vitamin K1, which is an effective treatment, but it must be given in the early stages of poisoning.

Symptoms of poisoning

The symptoms are similar for both humans and other mammals. Nausea and vomiting may occur soon after ingestion. However, in some cases the effects from exposure to Pindone may be delayed for several days. Typical symptoms of poisoning include:

- bleeding gums
- increased tendency to bruising
- blood in urine and faeces
- excessive bleeding from minor cuts
- moving with difficulty
- shock
- coma

Treatment

Do not rely on the treatment. Prevention is the best method of protection from poisoning.

If poisoning is suspected, **seek medical advice immediately** or call **the National Poison Centre (0800) 764 766**. If bait has been swallowed, give a glass or two of water and cause vomiting by putting a finger down the throat. Repeat until the vomit is clear in appearance.

How the Greater Wellington Regional Council will conduct rabbit baiting

1. GW is notified of problem areas by occupiers.
2. Obtains permission from the land occupier to lay Pindone bait and provides an information sheet.
3. Posts warning signs where appropriate.
4. Lays the toxic carrot by hand in the areas most frequented by rabbits. The amount of bait applied is related to the rabbit population density. It is important to apply sufficient bait to allow rabbits to feed on it over at least three nights to consume a lethal dose.
5. Carrot bait is left to rot. Rainfall will wash toxin off carrot bait.

If not enough help is offered KCDC has requested GW to lay pindone carrot or pellet bait in the dunes themselves which will mean restrictions for beach users.

Control work using this carrot bait has been carried out at Waikanae Estuary in the last few planting seasons and throughout the region for a number of years, with good results.

Toxicity to humans and other animals

	Animal weight (kg)	No. of baits to kill (based on 7 day daily dose)
Rabbit	1.5	0.9
Dog	9	26.5
Sheep	40	564
Cattle	400	5647
Human - child	12	706
Human - adult	75	4412

Chart is based on Pindone LD50s – amount of toxic bait required to kill 50% of a population.

For more information, contact Greater Wellington:

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