

# BEST PRACTICE RODENT CONTROL FOR PIGGERIES



A combination of seven key strategies are required to control rodents and reduce their impacts. Do not rely on rodenticides alone.

## 1 Prioritise rodent management Invest time in management

## 2 Habitat management Prevent nesting and burrowing

## 3 Rodenticide control Vitamin D3 + 2nd gen/acute

## 4 Physical management Prevent damage

## 5 Other methods Shooting, trapping

## 6 Piggery hygiene and cleanliness

## 7 Monitor effectiveness



**Black rat**  
*Rattus rattus*  
Long tail, large ears  
Prefers roof and wall cavities



**Brown rat**  
*Rattus norvegicus*  
Short tail, stocky body, small ears  
Prefers burrows and drains



**House mouse**  
*Mus domesticus*  
Small size  
Prefers fields and buildings

DISCLAIMER: Any recommendations, suggestions or opinions contained in this publication do not necessarily represent the policy or views of Australian Pork Limited (APL). No person should act on the basis of the contents of this publication without first obtaining specific, independent professional advice. APL and contributors to this poster may identify products by proprietary or trade names to help readers identify particular types of products. We do not endorse or recommend the products of any manufacturer referred to. Other products may perform as well as or better than those specifically referred to. APL will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or arising by reason of any person using or relying on the information in this publication. © APL 2018



## 1

### Prioritise rodent management

- Rodents present hidden costs (damage + repairs) to piggeries
- Rodent management is expensive; so do it right
- Dedicate staff time to rodent management; make it a priority

## 2

### Habitat management (prevent nesting)

- Use gravel, concrete or netting on the ground around the edge of sheds to prevent burrowing (go wide 300 mm + deep 180 mm)
- Place galvanised wire mesh netting (10 x 10 mm) along cooling screens
- Open up cavity walls to prevent nesting opportunities

## 3

### Rodenticide control (Vit D3 + acute/2nd gen)

Sub-acute rodenticides | Use for 4 out of every 6 weeks

- Active ingredient: Vitamin D3 (Cholecalciferol)

Acute rodenticides | Use for 2 out of every 6 weeks

- Highly toxic, very rapid (2 mins to 24 hours)
- Active ingredient: Zinc Phosphide

Second generation anticoagulants | Use for 2 out of every 6 weeks

- Single dose, takes 4–7 days for rats to die
- Active ingredients: Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum, Difethialone or Flocoumafen

First generation anticoagulants | DO NOT USE

Use all rodenticides in bait stations outside the perimeter of sheds



## 4

### Physical management (prevent damage)

- Seal holes, cover openings with netting (holes >6 mm)
- Cover electrical units with wire netting
- Put shields over pipes
- Put lids on feeders

## 5

### Other methods (lethal control)

- Consider shooting; a current and valid firearms licence is required (be careful not to cause more damage)
- Consider trapping (time consuming, but can have good success)
- Humane destruction by someone suitably qualified and registered
- DO NOT USE cats (risk of Toxoplasmosis)

## 6

### Piggery hygiene and cleanliness

- Keep grass/weeds low between sheds
- Remove piles of garbage
- Clean up feed spills

## 7

### Monitor effectiveness

- Have you been successful?
- Monitor bait stations and look for signs of rats
- Check out APL's Industry Rodenticide Stewardship Plan for more information