

November 2026

Protecting your dog

Pest eradication on Kawau Island

Auckland Council is working with the Kawau Island community to remove wallabies and possums from the island to support forest regeneration and to provide healthy habitats for native species. Ground-based pest control has been under way since May 2025. Concentrated possum removal has been in progress throughout the island for most of this year.

A targeted Feratox (encapsulated potassium cyanide) operation is planned for northern areas where possums continue to reinvade. **The operation will take place within a suitable weather window between 9 November and mid-December 2026** and will **target possums** using the bait stations and strikers described below.



Feratox Striker (potato starch single-use bait station).



Romark bait stations (with a hinged lid) will contain blue cyanide pellets (inset) rolled in a non-toxic lure.

Feratox baits are lethal to dogs if ingested. While there is very low risk of secondary poisoning from consuming possum carcasses, dogs must be kept well away from bait and bait stations at all times. Do not let your dog eat Feratox baits or scavenge carcasses. Please follow this advice to keep your dog safe during the possum control operation.

Advice for owners of working dogs

Dog handlers who work dogs in or around a Feratox treatment area should take the following precautions until the caution period is lifted:

- Keep working dogs well fed, which may reduce their inclination to scavenge.
- Keep dogs on a leash and under direct supervision when out working where possible.
- Kennel or chain the dogs when they are not working.

Veterinary help

- Warkworth Vets are up to date with the operation. **Please phone Warkworth Vets for local advice and guidance on 09 425 8244.**

Supervise, supervise and... supervise again

As the saying goes, prevention is better than the cure:

- Always keep dogs under supervision (on leash) – do not allow them to roam, especially in bush areas.
- It is recommended visitors do not bring their dog to the island while Feratox is in place. Signage and operation updates will indicate this.
- Do not let your dog eat Feratox baits or scavenge carcasses at any time and observe warning signage.
- If you must walk your dog in or near the operational area, keep it on a leash, stay on tracks/roads and ensure it is well fed and hydrated.

If you suspect Feratox poisoning

Feratox is a very fast-acting toxin. If you think your dog has eaten bait, do not wait for signs to appear – induce vomiting and take it straight to the vet.

Call the vet to let them know you are on your way. Report any suspected poisoning of your dog to council, including findings from your vet.

Emetic medication and muzzles are available for Kawau Island dog owners. Contact Warkworth Vets, 09 425 8244 to arrange collection. They are located at 23 Hudson Road.

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Consider muzzling your dog

- If necessary, dogs can be muzzled. A muzzle may annoy a dog if it is not used to wearing it, so its use needs to be gradually introduced.
- A muzzle may also result in heat stress during work. Dogs must be able to pant and be given the opportunity to drink, particularly in hot weather. Make sure you make provision for this.
- Dog owners on Kawau can request a muzzle from the Kawau Community Liaison, please phone 027 266 8373 or email kawau@islandconservation.org

About the possum programme

- We have been undertaking ground-based pest control on the island since May 2025. Throughout the island, concentrated work on removing possums has been in progress for most of this year using detection dogs and trapping.
- We are planning a Feratox operation where persistent possum activity has been identified, or where there is a risk of reinvasion, within a treatment window between 9 November and mid-December 2026, weather permitting.
- Blue Feratox pellets will be placed in Romark bait stations (within brown possum dough) and/or Strikers 1.3 metres off the ground, on properties where permission has been granted, in line with Public Health conditions (including setbacks from residential areas, tracks, roads and drinking-water sources). Details of the operation, including a map of the treatment areas, will be shared in advance. Feratox will not be deployed during school holidays or public holiday weekends.
- Toxins can be deadly to people as well as dogs. Avoid areas where toxic bait is present and avoid all contact with baits. If a person may have been poisoned, dial 111 immediately and call the Poisons Centre on 0800 POISON (0800 764 766).
- **Landowners and residents will be notified before Feratox is deployed, and warning signs will be placed at entry points to each treatment area.**
- Please see the Project Factsheet for more information about the possum programme.

Need help?

Visit: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-project or conservationauckland.nz/kawau-island

Enquire: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus

Phone: 09 301 0101

Write: Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142 | DX CX 10032

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau