

Kaua'i Mongoose Monitor



October 2012



Bycatch Woes

In the business of trapping for mongoose on Kaua'i, bycatch is what it's all about. Untargeted catch is unavoidable when using baits that attract not only more than one mammal, but every type of bird, amphibian, and snail as well.

The down-side of this, of course, is that dealing with bycatch is time-consuming and adds overall expense to the project; relocating the animal or euthanizing it. Bycatch also usually takes the bait intended for mongoose, necessitating the need to re-bait and re-set the trap.

Although feral cats have known negative effects on the ecosystem, KISC's policy is to treat them humanely and drop them off at the Humane Society in Puhi so that owned pets can be sorted out from ferals. This adds time and extra miles to the day.

KISC, along with our partners from DLNR and the Mongoose Outreach Working Group (MOWG), will be trying new techniques to discourage cats (and possibly other mammals, like pigs) from being attracted to the traps.

The trick will be to find a scent that doesn't repel mongooses but makes other animals steer clear.

Our experimental results will be posted later.



Teaching Tools

There are many tools that are useful in training personnel how to trap for mongoose, and one of them is teaching them tracking techniques.

The photo on the left was taken comparing a rat and a mongoose (from Hawai'i and taken out of the deep freeze). Noticeable differences can be seen in nails, pads, shape, and size.

Sightings received during October 2012

- Oct 2 - Lihue by Vidhina Stadium (credible)
- Oct 4 - Hanalei on the north side of the Hanalei bridge (credible)
- Oct 10 - Wailua by the Courtyard Marriott (credible)
- Oct 14 - Anini Beach area (credible)
- Oct 16 - Halfway Bridge (east of Puhi) (questionable)
- Oct 18 - Just north of Anahola on Kuhio Hwy (questionable)
- Oct 19 - Thought he saw two separate mongooses on the way up Kuamo'o Rd. in Wailua (questionable)



Tracking credible sightings and captures



Pat with chicken bycatch

Current trapping efforts

- Kauai Lagoons - 67 traps. Rana Biological has now set 10 traps in this area as well.
- Young Brothers Harbor area - 20 traps. These traps are dispersed around the perimeter of the yard.
- Puhi area - 30 traps. These traps are focused around an area of repeated mongoose sightings as well as historical sightings.
- Kilauea - 30 traps. After two recent sightings, traps were placed on private property near the highway. This area also has historical sightings.
- Kilauea - 20 traps. Set near above-listed property.