

Kaua'i Mongoose Monitor



August 2012



Photo: KISC. Pat Gmelin rebaits a trap.

Out-foxing the prey

This month the mongoose techs spent quite a bit of time trying various techniques to entice mongoose into their waiting traps. Besides using visual cues (feathers), the crew experimented with “tunnelizing” by wrapping some of them in shade cloth. This not only gave the occupants shade, but softened the metal feel as well as made it feel more like a tunnel. USFWS has found that mongoose on Oahu are more likely to go into a tracking tunnel (open-ended) than a trap and often used tracking tunnels as indicators of where to beef up trap placement.

Another study by Mike Nishimoto, a Biologist with the Kealia National Wildlife Refuge, compared the effectiveness of a DOC 250 against cage traps, some enclosed in boxes (open front and back). The boxed traps caught 58% of the mongooses. Although the abundance of mongooses on Kauai may not be great, the crew felt like it was worth a try.

Another technique sampled this month included using a different type of bait. It is recommended that baits be occasionally switched to offer more of a varied sampling, so this month the crew put out a bait that would appeal to hardened fish lovers. An absorbant sponge was hung inside the traps infused with fish emulsion and refreshed daily with a squirt bottle. Even a human without a sensitive sense of smell can tell you that this bait might attract critters from far and wide. The benefit of this bait type was that it took less time to “re-bait” as the matrix with the fish emulsion wasn’t taken by rats. Captures continue to include toads, rats, snails, small birds, chickens, and cats.

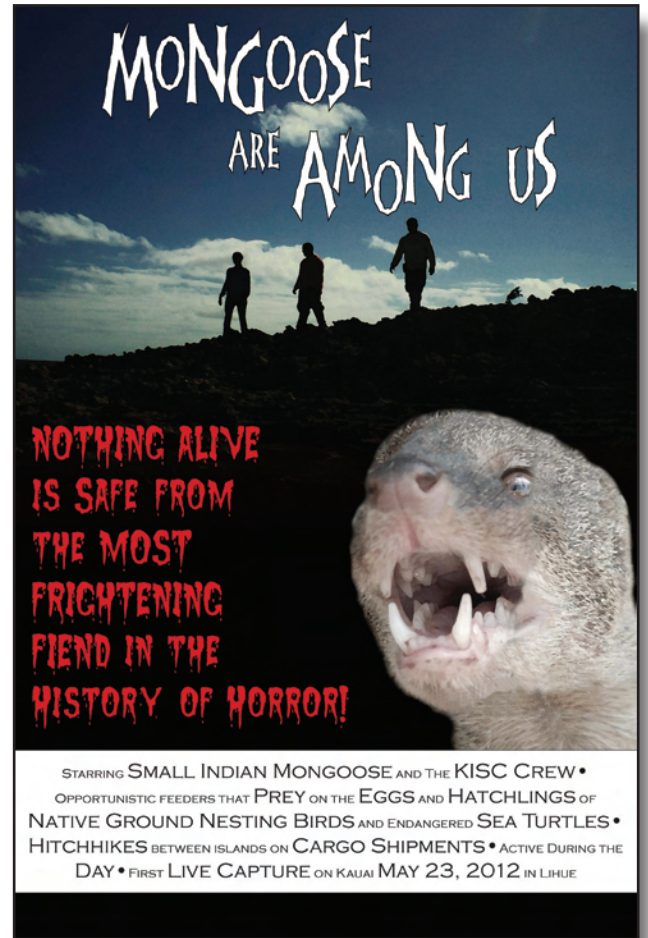
Port Safety and Security

Meetings with DLNR's Division of Harbors and Boating and with Young Brothers have raised our awareness for Harbor Safety. All KISC employees as well as the DLNR DOFAW Mongoose Techs will be attending a Maritime Security Class given by Division of Harbors personnel. Safety is key and this training will ensure that all persons checking and setting traps at the port will be following all expected protocols.

KISC personnel will also be applying for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) which is administered by the US Department of Homeland Security. This will allow unescorted access to secure areas of Maritime Transportation Security Act regulated facilities.

Sightings for August 2012

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aug 4: Kilauea on Hwy (Credible)• Aug 5: Hanalei by St. Regis (Questionable)• Aug 14: Lihue by Wilcox Hospital (Credible)• Aug 22: Puhi Villas at Puali (Credible)• Aug 29: Wailua at Lydgate Park (Credible) | <p>KISC received several sightings during the County Fair. Some of them are historic and some are more current. Two reports that haven't been interviewed yet, include a sighting in Kapaa and one by Sleeping Giant in Wailua Houselots.</p> |
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ABOVE: B-Horror Movie poster theme from KISC's display booth at the 2012 Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair

Preparations for the mongoose detection dog

A lot of work has gone into preparations to bring the mongoose detection dog to Kauai. A huge mahalo goes out to our anonymous benefactors who are donating the personal expenses that will be incurred by the dog handler, Kirk MacCarthy. This includes transportation (for both Kirk and his dog Zero), lodging and food.

Secondly, the Marriott and Kauai Lagoons have been

extremely accomodating in helping to figure out communications, security, logistics, and scheduling. Everyone is on the same page and is eagerly anticipating this upcoming event.

Next, as a secondary and supporting role, are USDA-Wildlife Services and Airport Security. They will be standing by and ensuring airport security if a mongoose gets chased into the airport

property.

US Fish and Wildlife are partnering as well when the dog is brought to the Huleia National Wildlife Refuge.

The event is scheduled to take place September 4, 5, and 6 and we will be running the dog at Kauai Lagoons, Huleia Refuge, and makai of the Lihue Airport.

Results to be posted later.