

Kaua'i

Mongoose Monitor



December 2012/January 2013

2012 trapping year ends...2013 starts off with a flurry of reports



2012 turned out to be a memorable year regarding the issue of presence or absence of mongooses on Kaua'i. With the first-ever capture of a live mongoose occurring in May, followed closely by a second capture in June, speculation abounds as to the possible population levels that may or may not occur on Kaua'i.

Answers to this question may partly be revealed by the results of the necropsy and DNA comparisons of these two animals being conducted by Will Pitt and his team with USDA-Wildlife Services in Hilo.

Meanwhile, looking back over the last year, a lot of effort has been expended responding to reports of mongooses throughout the year. Here are the 2012 highlights:

2,520¹ Person-hours spent trapping

(KISC, DOFAW, Rana Biological², USFWS-Refuge staff³, and Young Brothers⁴ personnel).

57 Credible reports

18 Questionable reports

(75 Total Reports for 2012)

27 Trapping locations

302 Traps maintained (over 27 sites)

¹Does not include trapping hours spent by USDA-WS inside airport boundaries.

²Partnering during March blitz at Kaua'i Lagoons

³Partnering during dog-detection at Huleia Refuge

⁴Partnering during 2nd mongoose capture at port

Currently, mongoose techs are running traps at 8 locations, including both Matson and Young Brothers port locations.

To start 2013, in January, there have been 4 credible sightings.

A big mahalo to all of our partners and to the technicians for their unflinching dedication.

December 2012 Mongoose Sightings

- **Dec. 5** - Wailua Homesteads on Haiku Road, just mauka of water tank. (*Credible*)
- **Dec.11** - Koloa town near Sueoka Store. Two people witnessed it. (*Credible*)
- **Dec. 22** - Kapahi behind Reynolds Recycling in a field. Same person also witnessed this animal on Dec. 27. (*Credible*)
- **Dec. 25** - Kalihiwai Bridge. Walker said he saw a dead mongoose on mauka side of highway. No carcass was retrieved. (*Credible*)
- **Dec. 26** - Lihue on Kapule Highway near JB Repair. (*Credible*)
- **Dec. 27** - Kapahi behind Reynolds Recycling in a field. Same person also witnessed this animal on Dec. 22. (*Credible*)
- **Dec. 31** - Wailua by Aloha Beach resort. Two people witnessed it. (*Credible*)

January 2013 Mongoose Sightings

- **Jan. 12** - Koloa on new Kukuiula by-pass road. Two people witnessed it. (*Credible*)
- **Jan. 14** - Eleele on Hwy. 540 near Kaua'i Coffee Visitor Center. (*Credible*)
- **Jan. 15** - Haena just past Tunnels Beach crossing the highway. Two people witnessed it. (*Credible*)
- **Jan. 26** - Wailua near Secret Falls. Animal was seen eating food left by tourists. (*Credible*)



New Kaua'i Bio-Security Partner - Matson

As of January 23, 2013, 20 traps have been set at the Matson port facility. To deter theft, all traps have been secured with locks and chain. Security hardware was provided by Thomas Kaiakapu, DLNR-DOFAW. Local Matson personnel will also keep their eyes peeled for hitchhiking critters!



Strategic trap placement FAIL
Sometimes even careful trap placement cannot escape the blades of a shredder in tall grass!