



# Small mammal trapping in ski resorts

Did you know most small mammals in ski resorts are native and some are endangered? All native animals are protected.

Do not use poison baits or snap traps. If you wish to have a small mammal removed follow these guidelines.

## Where do I get a trap?

An Elliot trap can be borrowed from the NPWS Perisher Office.

## How do they work?

The traps unfold to form a box with one end folding down until it clicks—this forms the trip. When the animal enters the trap it should step on the treadle and the door will shut.

## Where should I place the trap?

Always consider the animals welfare first. Do not place a trap outside or in a cold location. Choose a trap site which is warm, away from people or excessive noise and place in an area of known animal activity.

## How to catch your small mammal?

Avoid the animal being stressed or cold by using the bedding provided pushed to the end of the trap.

To make the trap attractive you must provide food. Use food to bait your trap—either what the animal has been eating or a firm mixture of oats, peanut butter and honey.

Rub some of the bait on the trap door and a small quantity placed at the back of the trap. Be careful to keep the treadle clear.

## How often should I check the trap?

If there is a chance you will not be able to check the trap DO NOT SET IT.

Check the trap regularly, first thing in the morning, in the early afternoon and evening.

## How to identify your small mammal?

If the trap door is closed you may have caught your small mammal. Gently turn the trap upside down so the treadle is at the top and tilt the trap slightly so the animal stays at the other end. Slowly push the door open just enough to see if there is an animal inside.

## Promptly return the animal in the trap

It isn't always easy to identify the type of mammal caught in a trap therefore we encourage all animals to be returned promptly in the trap to the NPWS Perisher Office or contact a NPWS officer for further assistance:

**Environmental Management Officer 6450 5611**  
or **Environmental Liaison Officer 6450 5616**

### Is it a broad-toothed rat?

- The face is broad and fluffy with small ears
- The fur colour is grizzled light dark brown, sometimes tinged green
- Its body length will be 10–18cm
- Its tail will be shorter than the body and be dark with small bristles
- Its feet will be dark
- Scats in the trap will be olive-brown green (<15mm)

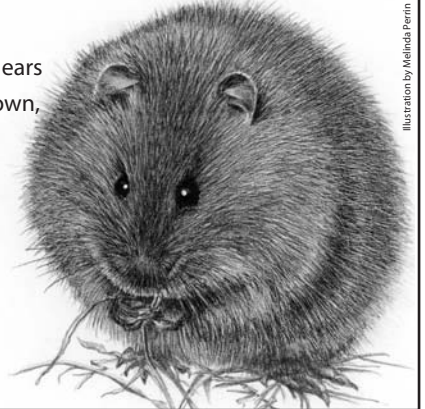


Illustration by Melinda Perrin

### Is it a bush rat?

- Its fur will be brown-grey to dark grey (to black if a black rat)
- If the tail is visible, a black rat's tail is much longer than the body—a bush rat's tail is the same length as the body
- Its body will be up to 10–20cm in length
- It will have long whiskers and beady dark eyes
- Its feet will be pale
- It will smell

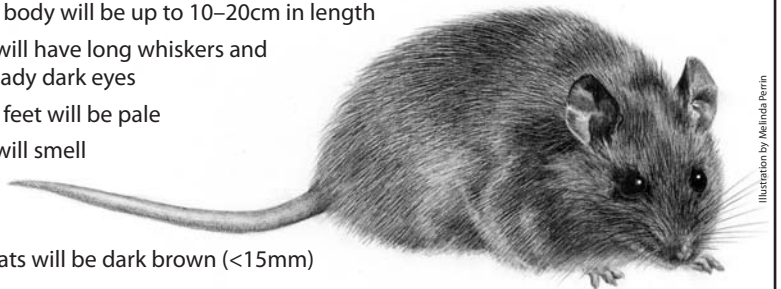


Illustration by Melinda Perrin

### Is it an antechinus?

- It will have a small pointed face.

#### Dusky antechinus (more common than Agile Antechinus)

- It will have chocolate brown fur and a body length of 8–19cm
- Its tail will be shorter than the body length

#### Agile antechinus

- It will have light grey fur
- Its body length will be 6–11cm and the tail will be the same length as the body



Illustration by Melinda Perrin

### Is it a mountain pygmy-possum?

- It will be very small with a body length of 8–12cm
- Its tail may be curled around its body
- It will have distinct dark rings around its eyes
- The fur colour ranges from light grey to orange
- It may have an ear tag
- Scats will be tiny (<7mm)



Illustration by Melinda Perrin