

Please keep the pressure on Feral Goats



For the past ten years there has been an active programme to remove all feral goats from Banks Peninsula. This special programme initially stemmed from public concern at feral goat damage to bush reserves and native plantings in the late 1980s and 1990`s.

Feral goats are well recognised as a major threat to regenerating native and endemic plants, and they negatively impact biodiversity. Feral goats are defined as those that are untagged and not kept behind a goat proof fence (Wild Animal Control Act 1977) regardless of the land tenure. These animal pests have been a serious issue on Banks Peninsula, so agencies and many landowners have joined in the effort to control them. The feral goat programme is run by ECan, DoC, CCC and the BPCT in agreement with landowners. The agencies have spent over \$300,000 in the last decade removing over 5000 individuals during this time.

Some landowners mistakenly believe that goats are an effective control for woody weeds such as broom and gorse. Although they do eat these plant pests they seldom have much impact to their vigour and do not prevent their continued spread unless the animals are confined to such a degree that they forced to eat them. By then however, all other palatable plants have been completely removed. In fact, research studies have demonstrated that gorse seed can be carried and spread when caught in their fur.

It is estimated that approximately over 500 feral goats remain on just a handful of Peninsula properties. These remaining animals pose a significant threat to the enormous effort and funds spent in their removal so far. Normal fences present no barrier to feral goats, and re-infestation of previously cleaned out areas creates a huge amount of extra work and cost.

Goats can breed in their first year and older nannies can produce twins and triplets regularly. This high recruitment means a population can more than double every two years. Without continued effort into their removal the work to date will be to no avail.

Your help is needed!

If you are a landowner, our working group are able to help with feral goat control

Please make contact if you are interested in this option.

As a last resort the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 can be used. The Act stipulates that all goats must be 'effectively fenced' [or otherwise constrained] and identified [i.e. ear tagged] otherwise they remain the property of the Crown.

. Most importantly please help by reporting any sightings of feral goats on Banks Peninsula.

Report these to or email

Pam Richardson

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

03 304 6825 iprichardso@xtra.co.nz

May 2017