

Rabbit Control Program at KGV

Q: Why is Council conducting this program?

A: Increasing numbers of rabbits are causing significant damage to the playing surface of KGV Oval by digging holes, which poses an injury risk to users of the ground as well as members of the public.

Q: Why is poison being used?

A: Council consulted with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Tasmania which advised that using pindone poison would be the most effective response to the problem.

Q: Is the poison harmful to people?

A: The poisoned baits do not pose a risk provided they are not touched or eaten. If a poisoned bait is accidentally eaten, contact the poisons hotline on 13 11 26.

Q: Is the poison harmful to dogs or cats?

A: The poisoned baits are not a risk to dogs or cats unless they are eaten. Domestic animals would need to consume a large amount of poisoned rabbits over a number of days to suffer a secondary poisoning. If you suspect your pet has suffered a secondary poisoning, seek veterinary assistance. Dogs are not permitted on KGV Oval at any time. Dog owners are encouraged to keep dogs on leads if they are walking them in the vicinity of the oval and prevent them from interacting with any rabbit carcasses as a precaution.

Q: Are baits only being laid on the oval?

A: Yes. Baits are only being laid within the KGV oval precinct.

Q: How long will the program take?

A: The program has two distinct stages. The first stage will see normal chopped carrots placed at various locations on the oval over the course of

two weeks to ensure the rabbits are accustomed to eating carrots. At the conclusion of this stage, poisoned carrot baits will be laid. These will contain a green dye so they can be readily identified. Members of the public should not interfere with any baits on the oval.

Q: What is pindone?

A: Pindone is a poison commonly used to poison rats and rabbits, and most often found in rat poison bait stations placed in commercial environments. More information can be found on the NRE Tasmania website.

Q: What do I do if I find a rabbit carcass in the vicinity of KGV?

A: It is recommended not to interfere with carcasses unless absolutely necessary. If you need to remove one from private property, they can be safely placed in a FOGO bin, using gloves or a tool such as a spade to avoid direct contact.

Q: Is Council going to bait other areas of the city as well?

A: At this stage, Council is not planning further baiting programs. KGV is being baited due to the risk of injury to people playing sport on the oval, and the oval presents a space where access can be somewhat controlled. A permit and training is required from NRE Tasmania to undertake a baiting program, and Council only has a permit for the KGV site. Council is aware of residents' concerns regarding rabbit numbers and has passed this on to NRE Tasmania. Further information regarding rabbit control, including Pindone, is available at the NRE website:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/invasive-animals/invasive-mammals/european-rabbits/rabbit-control-methods>