



2025



Protecting your dog

Pest management in the Hūnua Ranges

About the programme

Between July and October 2025, the 1080 toxin (sodium fluoroacetate) will be aurally applied to around 20,000 hectares of parkland in the Hūnua Ranges.

Areas involved in the pest management programme include Hūnua, Waharau and Whakatiwai Regional parks and the Department of Conservation administered Mataitai Conservation Area, Mataitai Scenic Reserve, Papa Turoa Scenic Reserve, Whakatiri Scenic Reserve, Mangatawhiri Forest Conservation Area, Vining Scenic Reserve and Richard Sylvan Memorial Reserve.

Advice for keeping your dog safe during the 1080-based pest control operation:

Supervise, supervise and... supervise again

As the saying goes, prevention is better than the cure:

- Always keep dogs under supervision (on leash) – do not allow them to roam, especially in bush areas.
- **It is recommended you do not take your dog into the operational area while the caution period remains in place (a minimum of four months post control, park signage will indicate this).**
- Most reported dog deaths occur after eating poisoned carcasses - not the bait - so it is important dogs are closely supervised to ensure they do not enter the operational area being treated with 1080 or scavenge carcasses that may have come from the operational area following the operation.
- If you must walk your dog near the operational area, keep it on a leash, stay on tracks/roads and ensure it is well fed and hydrated.

If you suspect 1080 poisoning

There is no cure for 1080 poisoning, however early intervention may help you save your pet.

Signs of poisoning may appear as soon as half an hour after the poison is ingested or up to several hours later. Look for:

- Behavioural changes - disorientation, restlessness, hyperactivity, howling or barking, sensitivity to touch, aggression, or snapping.
- Drooling, vomiting and involuntary urinating or defecating.
- Muscle tremors and convulsions.

Death can occur within two to 12 hours of ingesting the poison.

If you suspect your dog has ingested the toxin, induce vomiting immediately (see how over the page) and take the dog straight to the vet. You should call to let them know you are on your way.

Advice for owners of working dogs

Farmers who work dogs in or around a 1080 treated area should take the following precautions until the caution period is lifted, (this will be a minimum of four months):

- Consider whether stock on your property can be managed without dogs
- Keep working dogs well fed; feeding dog meat rather than biscuits during and after a 1080 operation may reduce their inclination to scavenge on dead possums
- Kennel or chain dogs when they are not working
- Keep dogs on a leash and under direct supervision when out working where possible.



1080 toxin (sodium fluoroacetate) is a green cereal bait, about the size of a bottle cap.

Consider muzzling your dog

- If necessary, dogs can be muzzled.
- A muzzle may annoy a dog if it is not used to wearing it, so its use needs to be gradually introduced.
- A muzzle may also result in heat stress during work. Dogs must be able to pant and be given the opportunity to drink, particularly in hot weather. Make sure you make provision for this.
- Dog owners with land adjacent to the operational area can request a muzzle from council. Please email HunuaProject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz to make a request.

Emetic treatment (induces vomiting)

In the absence of an antidote for 1080 poisoning in dogs, simple emetic treatment is available and can be effective if it is administered within an hour of baits (or carcasses) being eaten. The risk is that wandering dogs may not return within this time, which means that restraining dogs is the only sure protection.

- One or two crystals of washing soda (available from supermarkets) down the dog's throat or half a teaspoon of salt thrown on the back of the dog's tongue are also effective methods of inducing vomiting.
- Phone the vet as soon you have administered emetic treatment and immediately take the dog to the vet.



Need help?



Visit: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/hunuaproject
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