

# RHDV1 K5 RABBIT PREFEEDING GUIDE



European wild rabbit



Rabbit droppings approx. 8-10mm diameter



Warren dug into sandy clay soil



Step 2.

Perform pre-feeding of at least 4 days prior to release of infected oats. Pre-feeding of non-treated bait is an essential step to allow rabbits to become accustomed to eating bait material. It also enables an estimation of amount of treated bait required and assessment of any non-target uptake. The rate of bait for pre-feeding should be appropriate to the local rabbit density.

## ➤ **STEP 1.**

Identify areas where rabbits have been seen or recent signs of activity, such as diggings, droppings or active warrens.

Note: Where vegetation is dense, wild rabbits may not be living in warrens, but in amongst vegetation that is close to the ground. They may also be living in rock piles and under sheds or dwellings or piles of debris etc.

## ➤ **STEP 2.**

Once an area of recent activity has been identified, lightly turn a small area of soil with either a spade or rake approximately 1 square metre.

## ➤ **STEP 3.**

Please purchase a minimum of 5 kilograms of clean feed oats from your local rural suppliers or stockfeed suppliers. Measure 1 x kilogram of oats and place in a neat pile on the turned area of soil.



Step 3.



A smooth sand pad can help to identify animal activity



Suspend any shooting or other baiting during the K5 release

## ➤ STEP 4.

(Each following day)

Check oat piles to assess if the oats have been eaten and how much of the oats have been taken. If all the oats have been taken increase the amount slightly until there is a small amount left each day.

Check activity such as scats or tracks around feed site, if signs indicate other animals are taking the oats and not rabbits move the baiting site to another area with rabbit activity. A sand pad or a smoothly screeded area at the site can assist in monitoring by making tracks or scats more visible.

**Repeat this process for 5 days leading up to Biosecurity staff releasing the K5 infected oats.**

## PLEASE NOTE:

- If grain is not being taken in the first couple of nights, consider moving the baited area to an alternate area of activity.
- Avoid activity around bait sites.
- Avoid allowing pets such as dogs and cats access to bait sites, to reduce disturbing feeding rabbits.
- Suspend any shooting or other baiting activities whilst programme is being undertaken.

**For further advice or support, please call Blackwood Biosecurity Operations Manager, Jason Dearle on 0427 848 310 or the BBI office on 0455 522 750**