

Feral goat

Capra hircus

What does it look like?

Feral goats are a small-medium hoofed mammal that vary in size and colour, with stout strong legs designed for climbing. Adult male goats stand 76-91 cm at the shoulder, with a body length of 116-152cm, and weigh 45 - 55kg. Females weigh between 25-35kg. They are social, preferring to travel in small groups.

They are herbivores that browse a wide variety of plant species.

They can tolerate a wide range of climatic conditions.



Why is it a problem?

Feral goats can digest plant material extremely efficiently, enabling them to feed on a wide variety of plant species. Goats destroy the understorey of vegetation and, when combined with possum damage to the upper canopy, degrade native forests.

Goats also damage vegetation planted on land retired for soil conservation purposes and newly planted or young trees in exotic forests. Goats are considered to be one of the most destructive animals found in forests.



Control methods

Shooting: A method of control for landowner/occupiers following appropriate firearms regulations and safety procedures. It is advisable to inform or co-ordinate control efforts with your neighbours particularly next to a shared boundary.

Use appropriate calibre for shooting target species.

There are also mustering contractors available within the East Coast/Tairāwhiti region.

Related links

Gisborne District Regional Pest Management Plan <https://www.gdc.govt.nz/environment/reports-and-publications/pests/regional-pest-management-plan>

Invasive Species Compendium <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/90416>

Unwanted Organisms <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/long-term-pest-management/handling-unwanted-organisms/>

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Rules

Council will work with landowner/occupier, including developing agreements for the effective management of this pest to protect the values of specific sites.

For more information about this Rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan page 35, under Related Links.

All occupiers shall, where a feral goat control operation is being undertaken on directly adjacent land, on a complaints basis, and unless otherwise agreed between the neighbours and authorised Council staff, act to significantly reduce the chance of goat from their property re-infesting the adjacent property. Actions may include direct control, mustering for removal or fencing.

For more information about Rules refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan.

Management programme

Sustained Control