



**October
2025**



Protecting your dog

Pest eradication on Kawau Island

Auckland Council is working with the Kawau Island community to remove wallabies and possums from the island to support forest regeneration and to provide healthy habitats for native species. We have been undertaking a ground-based pest control operation since May 2025 which has included the permitted, targeted use of toxins (1080 and Feratox) in areas where there are higher numbers of wallabies and possums present.

Dogs are highly susceptible to 1080 poisoning if they consume baits or scavenge carcasses and are highly susceptible to Feratox poisoning if they consume the baits. Please ensure you follow this advice for keeping your dog safe during the 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 visitors do not take their dog on to the island while the caution period remains in place (a minimum of four months post control). Signage and operation updates will indicate this.**
- Most reported dog deaths occur after eating poisoned carcasses so do not let them scavenge carcasses at any time.
- If you must walk your dog on the island, 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. Report any suspected 1080 poisoning of your dog to council, including findings from your vet.

Advice for owners of working dogs

Dog Handlers 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):

- 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.
- Keep dogs on a leash and under direct supervision when out working where possible.
- Kennel or chain the dogs when they are not working.



1080 pellets (sodium fluoroacetate) are 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 on Kawau can request a muzzle from the Kawau Community Liaison, please phone 027 266 8373 or email kawau@islandconservation.org

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.

- Warkworth Vets are up to date with active operations and Auckland Council have arranged for a supply of emetic medication to be available to dog owners from the island in advance of the operation through the Warkworth Vet Clinic. **Please phone Warkworth Vets for local advice and guidance regarding emetic treatment on 09 425 8244.**
- A supply of emetic medication will also be available on the island in case of emergency. Please contact Auckland Council's 24-hour call centre on 09 301 0101.
- 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.

About the programme

- In May 2025, the active operation to remove wallabies and possums from Kawau Island commenced at the southern end of the island, before moving to the northern side.
- The primary control methods include hunting with the use of trained indicator dogs, thermal equipment and drones with thermal cameras. In accordance with permit approvals and monitoring outcomes, targeted toxins (Feratox and 1080) will be used in localised areas where the monitoring network has revealed there are high numbers of wallabies and / or possums present. A small scale treatment trial consisting of ground-based bait application of 1080 gel on cut foliage and cereal bait is planned to occur as weather permits at the remote location of Challenger Point Peninsula between the end of October - November 2025. The 1080 gel will be applied to **the underside of cut foliage which will be pinned to the ground**. Signage will be located at entrances to treatment areas as well as immediately adjacent to treated foliage. Pending results of the trial, the remainder of the southern sector (excluding residential areas and block one) and the northern sector will begin after Waitangi Weekend (6-8 February) 2026, incorporating learnings from the trial, and may take several months.
- **Residents and landowners will be notified if, when and where targeted toxins are used.**
- Please see the [Project Factsheet](#) for more information about the operation.



Need help?



Visit: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-project or conservationauckland.nz/kawau-island

Enquire: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus



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