

New Regulations on the use of Glue Traps and other Rodent Traps

Under the new Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008, the use of glue traps has been restricted. Glue traps must only be used by commercial pest control operators. They can only be used for trapping rodents and they must be used in accordance with conditions set by the Minister for Agriculture. (The use of glue traps for trapping insects is not affected, as insects are not covered by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals legislation.)

The following conditions were published in the Victoria Government Gazette on 2 January 2009.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of Approval and Determination

Requirement for Setting or Using Glue Traps under Regulation 53

I, Joe Helper, Minister for Agriculture and Minister responsible for administering the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008, give notice under Regulation 53 of those regulations that:

I approve all Victorian commercial pest controllers to use glue traps in commercial food manufacturing premises within Victoria provided the use is in accordance with the following determined conditions:

1. Glue traps must not be set or used anywhere other than inside a commercial food manufacturing premises in rooms where food is stored or prepared.
2. Glue traps must not be set or used in outdoor areas.
3. The trap must be fixed to the premises such that it is not be able to be moved by a trapped animal.
4. The trap must be checked at least every 24 hours.
5. A trapped animal that is a rodent must be humanely destroyed as soon as is reasonably possible.
6. If an animal other than a rodent is captured in the trap and is alive at the time the trap is checked and the person is able to remove all glue from the animal, the person must release the animal from the trap and remove all glue from it as soon as is reasonably possible.
7. If an animal other than a rodent is captured in the trap and is alive at the time the trap is checked but the person is unable to remove all glue from the animal, the animal must be taken to a veterinary practitioner for treatment as soon as is reasonably possible.
8. If an animal that is released from the trap under condition 6 is injured or suffering from being trapped in the glue, it must be taken to a veterinary practitioner for treatment as soon as is reasonably possible, or if severely injured, may be humanely destroyed.
9. If an animal that is released from the trap under condition 6 is uninjured and is a dog or a cat that is unidentified and cannot be returned to its owner, it must be delivered to an authorised officer of the local council as soon as is reasonably possible.
10. Once the trap is no longer required for trapping rodents, it must be disposed of in a manner which will prevent any further animals from becoming stuck to the trap.

This approval commences on 16 December 2008 and remains in place until 31 December 2009 unless earlier revoked.

The ordinary meaning of the term 'manufacturing' applies. 'Manufacturing' is defined as the 'making of articles by physical labour or machinery', esp. on a large scale' and 'to bring (material) into form fit for use; produce (articles) by labour, esp. by machinery on large scale...' (source: Concise Oxford Dictionary). Based on this meaning, 'commercial food manufacturing premises' do not include restaurants, fast food outlets, food storage facilities or supermarkets.

Under Regulation 46 of the new Regulations, rodent kill traps must have the following features-

- (a) if jawed, the trap must have smooth, not serrated jaws;
- (b) the trap must humanely destroy the animal;
- (c) the trap must not have spikes or serrations which could cause injury to a trapped animal before its death.

There are transitional regulations which permit the sale and use of rodent traps with serrated jaws until 31 December 2009. After that date, all jawed rodent traps (i.e. snap traps) must have smooth jaws. Traps with plastic interlocking teeth are included in the prohibition from that date.

Please note that "humanely destroy" is defined in the Regulations to mean "causing the death of an animal by a means that results in immediate loss of consciousness and then death of the animal (without recovering consciousness)". This means that traps such as drowning traps are prohibited.

If you have any queries about the new regulations, please contact the Bureau of Animal Welfare, Department of Primary Industries by email: animal.welfare@dpi.vic.gov.au or phone 9217 4200.