Small Mammal Trapping Procedure

Complete an appropriate risk assessment (see issues relating to trapping overleaf, but also establish a reporting procedure, and consider other risks associated with fieldwork).

Set traps at dusk, retrieve as soon as practicable after dawn. Ensure that traps are not set in full sunlight if trapping during spring and summer to avoid potential problem of over-heating.

Mark location of traps e.g. with canes, to ensure relocation. Make sure that the number of traps set is known as a safeguard to ensure that all traps are checked daily and collected at the end of the trapping period – it is easy to miss traps if tired. Design an appropriate recording sheet to keep track of traps checked and to record captures. Be aware that in public areas vandalism and trap theft may be a serious issue.

**Do not leave traps for longer than 10 hours in summer, maximum of 16 hours in winter**

Pack box with appropriate bedding – e.g. hay, and in cold weather also cotton wool (DO NOT use shredded paper). Replace bedding with fresh material if it becomes soiled with faeces or old food, or becomes damp.

Make sure nest box is angled down towards the tunnel, to allow drainage (if necessary use a small stone under the box).

When setting traps it is essential to provide sufficient appropriate food e.g. a handful / approx two tablespoonfuls of mixed grain, porridge oats, fresh chopped apple/carrot (for moisture) and blowfly casters¹ (in case shrews are captured) in addition to using UNSALTED peanut butter as an effective attractant.

**It is an absolute requirement to provide casters, and either carrot/apple as well as grain/oats to avoid mortality.**

If it is required to mark captured individuals, a small area of fur clipping NOT toe clipping should be used.

Even when using large numbers of traps and catching large numbers of individuals mortality should be very low - if regular mortality occurs, discontinue trapping and seek advice.

If a student has no, or only limited, previous experience of small mammal live trapping it is essential they receive training and supervision. Students will not be permitted to carry out live trapping without confirmation from their supervisor that such training has been received.

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¹ available all year and immediately in store at:
Angling Direct, 272 Aylsham Road, Norwich, Tel: 01603 400757
Many fishing shops require several weeks notice and may be expensive
Risk Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazards Identified</th>
<th>Risk Ranking</th>
<th>Control Measures To Minimise Risk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Med</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getting bitten by small mammals</td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minor accident</td>
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