



Pest animals in New Zealand

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A guide to animal pests in New Zealand. This guide is restricted to introduced animals that are wild or feral and doesn't include pesky native critters.

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Rainbow Lorikeet



Photo (c) Fr. Ted Bobosh, some rights reserved (CC BY-SA), uploaded by Tony Wills

Summary¹

The Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*) is a species of Australasian parrot found in Australia, eastern Indonesia (Maluku and Western New Guinea), Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In Australia, it is common along the eastern seaboard, from Queensland to South Australia and northwest Tasmania. Its habitat is rainforest, coastal bush and woodland areas. Several taxa traditionally listed as subspecies of the Rainbow Lorikeet are increasingly treated as separate species (see *Taxonomy*).

Black Rat (Ship Rat)



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² Summary

The **black rat** (*Rattus rattus*) is a common long-tailed rodent of the genus *Rattus* (rats) in the subfamily Murinae (murine rodents). The species originated in tropical Asia and spread through the Near East in Roman times before reaching Europe by the 1st century and spreading with Europeans across the world.

Brown Rat (Norway Rat)



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³ Summary

The **brown rat, common rat, street rat, sewer rat, Hanover rat, Norway rat, brown Norway rat, Norwegian rat, wharf rat** (*Rattus norvegicus*), or **hood rat** is one of the best known and most common rats.

Cat (feral)



Photo (c) Jennifer Rycenga, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

Summary⁴

The domestic cat (*Felis catus* or *Felis silvestris catus*) is a small, usually furry, domesticated, and carnivorous mammal. It is often called the housecat when kept as an indoor pet, or simply the cat when there is no need to distinguish it from other felids and felines. Cats are often valued by humans for companionship and their ability to hunt vermin and household pests.

Fallow Deer



Photo (c) Roland zh, some rights reserved (CC BY-SA), uploaded by Tony Wills

Summary⁵

The fallow deer (*Dama dama*) is a ruminant mammal belonging to the family Cervidae. This common species is native to western Eurasia, but has been introduced widely elsewhere. It often includes the rarer Persian fallow deer as a subspecies (*D. d. mesopotamica*), while others treat it as an entirely different species (*D. mesopotamica*).

Ferret



Photo (c) Luciano Bernardi, some rights reserved (CC BY-SA)

Summary⁶

The ferret is a domesticated mammal of the type *Mustela putorius furo*. Ferrets are sexually dimorphic predators with males being substantially larger than females. They typically have brown, black, white, or mixed fur. They have an average length of 20 inches (51 cm) including a 5 inch (13 cm) tail, weigh about 1.5–4 pounds (0.7–2 kg), and have a natural lifespan of 7 to 10 years.

Goat (feral)



Photo (c) Dirk Beyer, some rights reserved (CC BY-SA)

Summary⁷

The domestic goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) is a subspecies of goat domesticated from the wild goat of southwest Asia and Eastern Europe. The goat is a member of the family Bovidae and is closely related to the sheep as both are in the goat-antelope subfamily Caprinae. There are over 300 distinct breeds of goat. Goats are one of the oldest domesticated species, and have been used for their milk, meat, hair, and skins over much of...

Hedgehog



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Summary⁸

The European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), or common hedgehog, is a hedgehog species found in northern and western Europe. It is a common and well-known species, and is a favourite in European gardens, both for its unique, cute appearance and its insectivorous habits.

Mouse



Photo (c) Davide, some rights reserved (CC BY-SA)

Summary⁹

The house mouse (*Mus musculus*) is a small mammal of the order Rodentia, characteristically having a pointed snout, small rounded ears, and a long naked or almost hairless tail. It is one of the most numerous species of the genus *Mus*. Although a wild animal, the house mouse mainly lives in association with humans.

Possom



Photo (c) Donald Hobern, some rights reserved (CC BY), uploaded by Tony Wills

Summary¹⁰

They are an introduced wild species, there are no restrictions on hunting but the population seems to be stable despite the annual killing of the animals in the thousands. In addition, in New Zealand (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bovine_tuberculosis#New_Zealand) it is a host for the highly contagious bovine tuberculosis (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bovine_tuberculosis). The Department of Conservation controls possum numbers in many areas via the aerial dropping of highly toxic 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sodium_monofluoroacetate)) laced bait.

Rabbit



Photo (c) Alex J., some rights reserved (CC BY)

Summary¹¹

The European rabbit or common rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) is a species of rabbit native to southwestern Europe (Spain and Portugal) and northwest Africa (Morocco and Algeria). It has been widely introduced elsewhere, often with devastating effects on local biodiversity. However, its decline in its native range (caused by the diseases myxomatosis and rabbit calicivirus, as well as overhunting and habitat loss), has caused the decline of its highly dependent predators, the Iberian lynx and the Spanish...

Red Deer



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Rusa Deer, Javan



Photo (c) Jiří Bukovský, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

Summary¹²

The Javan rusa or Sunda sambar (*Rusa timorensis*) is a deer native to the islands of Java, Bali and Timor (shared with East Timor) in Indonesia. It is also an introduced species in Irian Jaya, Borneo (Kalimantan), the Lesser Sunda Islands, Maluku, Sulawesi, Australia, Mauritius, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Réunion.

Sika Deer



Photo (c) Andreas Kepplinger, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC-SA)

Summary¹³

The sika deer, *Cervus nippon*, also known as the **spotted deer** or the **Japanese deer**, is a species of deer native to much of East Asia, and introduced to various other parts of the world. Previously found from northern Vietnam in the south to the Russian Far East in the north, it is now uncommon in these areas, excluding Japan, where the species is overabundant. Its name comes from *shika* (鹿?), the Japanese word for "deer".

Stoat



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Summary¹⁴

The **stoat** (*Mustela erminea*), also known as the **short-tailed weasel**, is a species of Mustelidae native to Eurasia and North America, distinguished from the least weasel by its larger size and longer tail with a prominent black tip. The name **ermine** is often but not always used for the animal in its pure white winter coat, or the fur thereof. Since the late 19th century, stoats have been introduced to New Zealand to control rabbits, but...

Tahr, Himalayan



Photo (c) Matěj Bat'ha, some rights reserved (CC BY-SA)

Summary¹⁵

The Himalayan tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) or common tahr is a large ungulate related to the wild goat and the only extant member of the genus *Hemitragus*. The Himalayan tahr is native to the Himalayas in southern Tibet, northern India, and Nepal. The Himalayan tahr has been introduced as an alien species to New Zealand, parts of South America, and South Africa. Efforts in each of these regions are being made to control the Himalayan tahr population...

Wallaby (various species)



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Summary¹⁶

Marsupials are an infraclass of mammals living primarily in the Southern Hemisphere; a distinctive characteristic, common to most species, is that the young are carried in a pouch. Well-known marsupials include kangaroos, koalas, possums, opossums, wombats and the Tasmanian devil. Marsupials represent the clade originating with the last common ancestor of extant metatherians. Like other mammals in the Metatheria, they are characterized by giving birth to relatively undeveloped young, often residing in a pouch with the...

Wapiti



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Summary¹⁷

The Rocky Mountain Elk is a subspecies of elk found in the Rocky Mountains and adjacent ranges of Western North America. The winter ranges are most common in open forests and floodplain marshes in the lower elevations. In the summer it migrates to the subalpine forests and alpine basins. The total wild population is about one million individuals.

Weasel



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Summary¹⁸

Weasels /'wi:zəl/ are mammals forming the genus *Mustela* of the Mustelidae family. The genus includes the weasels, European polecats, stoats, ferrets and European minks. They are small, active predators, long and slender with short legs. The Mustelidae family (which also includes badgers, otters and wolverines) is often referred to as the weasel family. In the UK, the term "weasel" usually refers to the smallest species *Mustela nivalis* (also known as the least weasel).

White-tailed Deer



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¹⁹ Summary

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), also known as the Virginia deer or simply as the whitetail, is a medium-sized deer native to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, and South America as far south as Peru. It has also been introduced to New Zealand and some countries in Europe, such as Finland, Czech Republic, and Serbia. In the Americas, it is the most widely distributed wild ungulate.

Rainbow Skink



Photo (c) Caleb Slemmons, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC)

²⁰ Summary

The Delicate Skink, Dark-flecked Garden Sun Skink or Garden Skink (*Lampropholis delicata*) is a skink of the subfamily Lygosominae, originally from Eastern Australia. In its native range and in New Zealand it is also known as the Rainbow Skink, which elsewhere usually refers to the African *Trachylepis margaritifera*, also a member of the Lygosominae.

Brown Bullhead Catfish



Photo (c) Noel Burkhead, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC-SA)

Summary²¹

The **brown bullhead**, *Ameiurus nebulosus*, is a fish of the Ictaluridae family that is widely distributed in North America. It is a species of bullhead catfish and is similar to the black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*) and yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*). It was originally described as *Pimelodus nebulosus* by Charles Alexandre Lesueur in 1819, and is also referred to as *Ictalurus nebulosus*.

Common Carp



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Summary²²

The **common carp** (*Cyprinus carpio*) is a widespread freshwater fish of eutrophic waters in lakes and large rivers in Europe and Asia. The wild populations are considered vulnerable to extinction, but the species has also been domesticated and introduced into environments worldwide, and is often considered a very destructive invasive species, being included in the List of the world's 100 worst invasive species. It gives its name to the carp family: Cyprinidae.

Rudd



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²³ Summary

The common rudd *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* is a benthopelagic freshwater fish, widely spread in Europe and middle Asia, around the basins of the North, Baltic, Black, Caspian and Aral seas.

Western Mosquitofish

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²⁴ Summary

The western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) is a species of freshwater fish, also known commonly, if ambiguously, as simply mosquitofish or by its generic name, *Gambusia*, or by the common name gambezi. There is also an eastern mosquitofish (*G. holbrooki*).

Argentine Ant



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Summary²⁵

The Argentine ant, *Linepithema humile* (formerly *Iridomyrmex humilis*), is a dark ant native to northern Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and southern Brazil. It is an invasive species that has been established in many Mediterranean climate areas, inadvertently introduced by humans to many places, including South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, Easter Island, Australia, Hawaii, Europe, and the United States.

Large White Butterfly



Photo (c) Marcello Consolo, some rights reserved (CC BY-NC-SA)

Summary²⁶

The Large White, *Pieris brassicae*, also called Cabbage Butterfly, Cabbage White, or in India the Large Cabbage White. White cabbage butterfly is a butterfly in the family Pieridae. The large white is a close relative to the Small White, *pieris rapae*.

Wasps (Common and German)



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Summary

Hornets are the largest eusocial wasps; some species can reach up to 5.5 cm (2.2 in) in length. The true hornets make up the genus *Vespa* and are distinguished from other vespines by the width of the vertex (part of the head behind the eyes), which is proportionally larger in *Vespa* and by the anteriorly rounded gasters (the section of the abdomen behind the wasp waist). The best known species is the European hornet (*Vespa crabro*), about 2–3.5 cm...

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