Four key points

1. Use *electrified netting or fencing* to protect your poultry. These are proven to be the most effective deterrent against pine martens climbing up and over fencing used to contain poultry. The electric shock frightens but does not kill or injure the pine marten.

2. Position hen houses or runs at a *distance of 3m* from nearby trees and walls to prevent a marten jumping down into the areas used by the poultry.

3. Ensure the hen house and all fencing are maintained to a high standard by *replacing rotting timbers and repairing gaps* in fences.

4. Regularly *check for signs of digging* under the hen house or run.

Pine martens are curious, intelligent and opportunistic predators.

A pine marten can squeeze through an opening 45-50mm in size, and can also enlarge an existing small opening in rotten timber, by chewing around the edges.
It is important to regularly inspect your pen or hen house, for gaps in netting, and or deteriorating or rotting wood. It is also important to securely shut the hen house door at night, because a pine marten can lift a door if it is not secured.

The most effective way to protect poultry, is to use electric netting or fencing. It shocks but does not harm the pine marten.
Electric poultry netting is available in rolls of 25m or 50m. The netting is supplied with supporting vertical posts and a built-in gate.

![Image of electrified netting with vertical single- or double-pronged posts]

The netting is electrified using a rechargeable battery which must be placed inside a waterproof container. The battery is recharged using mains electricity.

![Image of electrified netting with rechargeable battery housed in waterproof container]
The flow of electricity is controlled by a device called an energiser which is connected to both the battery and the electric fence. The electricity can be turned on and off from using a switch located outside the netting.

It is important to keep the bottom of the netting clear of vegetation, to prevent the electric current being short-circuited. This can be achieved either by spraying with herbicide, or by using a length of damp proof course (DPC) membrane underneath the netting.

Non-electrified mesh of a smaller diameter can be placed inside the electric netting, to prevent very young birds from escaping.
An alternative to the electrified poultry netting, is to construct an electrified fence using electric fencing twine. This type of fence is built by attaching strands of electric twine to plastic fence posts. Wooden posts with electric twine which is positioned at various heights off the ground, will prevent a marten squeezing under the fence line. Plastic insulators are used to secure the twine in place. The fence twine is electrified in the same way as the electrified netting - by using an energiser and a rechargeable battery.

Pine martens are agile climbers. A pine marten can jump a horizontal distance of up to 2 meters and can climb trees with ease. So, it is essential that a hen house or run is located at least 3 meters away from trees or a wall.