

# The Dangers and Misuse of Rodenticides



**Presented by:**  
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Image Credit: Protect Our Wildlife Vermont

**Rodenticides** contain highly toxic chemicals which are harmful to the environment, non-target species, children, and pets.

- **First-generation anticoagulants (FGARs)** registered to control rats and mice in the United States include chlorpophacinone, diphacinone and warfarin.
- **Second-generation anticoagulants (SGARs)** were developed to control rodents that developed resistance to first-generation anticoagulants. SGARs registered in the United States include brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, and difethialone.
- **Other rodenticides** currently registered to control mice include bromethalin, cholecalciferol and zinc phosphide. These compounds are not anticoagulants. Each is toxic in other ways.

# Rodenticides are not being used as intended.



# Tamper-Resistant Does Not Mean Tamper-Proof

Bait should be anchored within a bait station so that it cannot be shaken out, and the stations should be tamper-resistant to minimize risk of exposure to people and non-target animals.

Rodent bait stations are not required by law to be labeled.

Commercial application businesses are encouraged to label their bait stations with business contact information.

Pesticide Management Program Connecticut Dept. of  
Energy & Environmental Protection



# Environmental Pollution



Photographs provided by Turtle Haven



Photograph provided by Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education Center  
Toxic Food Web Image Credit: Raptors are the Solution

# Rodenticides Poison More Than Just Rats and Mice

Predators meant to control rodent populations are at risk: owls, hawks, falcons, herons, foxes, weasels, skunks, snakes, coyotes, opossum, etc.

In a single year, one red-tailed hawk can eat 1,500 rodents, and one barn owl can catch up to 2,000 mice.



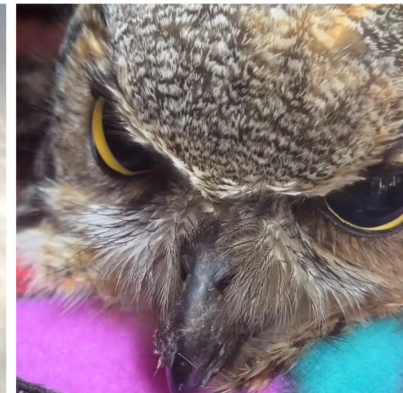
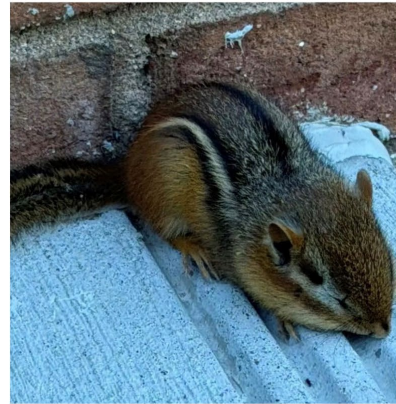
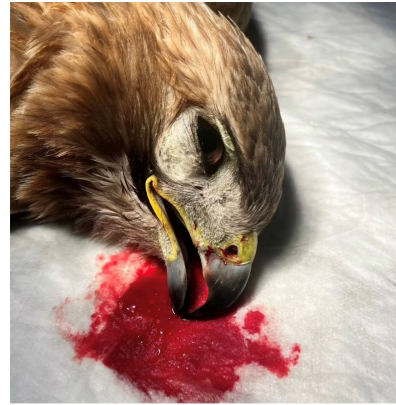
Photograph provided by A Place Called Hope

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Photographs provided by A Place Called Hope

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Photographs provided by A Place Called Hope, Horizon Wings Raptor Rehabilitation and Education Center, and Venderick's Healing Paw

# Rodenticides Poison More Than Just Rats and Mice

- Nature's clean-up crew: turkey vultures, black vultures, etc.
- Game animals: black bears, wild pigs, white-tailed deer, etc.
- Livestock: meat, milk, eggs, etc.
- Domestic pets
- Children



Photograph provided by A Place Called Hope

# Rodenticides are not effective for long-term rodent management.

- Rats and mice have exhibited genetic resistance to ARs for decades.
- Supplying mouse or rat bait as a continuous food source will attract rodents.
- Results are not immediate when using FGARs and require multiple feedings before a mouse or rat dies.
- Rats can learn to avoid poisoned bait if they sense it's dangerous.
- Rodents exposed to ARs are more likely to harbor and spread certain diseases, like Leptospirosis.
- If an animal consumes poison and dies in an inaccessible area, their decaying body will create a foul odor and attract even more pests.

# Let Nature Do Its Job

The inadvertent killing of predators with poison adds to rodent overpopulation issues.

In a healthy ecosystem, the natural predators of mice and rats will keep rodent populations in check.

Installing owl nesting boxes and hawk perches will encourage native species to take up residence and manage rodents naturally.

Photograph provided by John Ozerhoski



# Poison is Poison

Baiting and using  
rodenticide poisons are  
short-term fixes, at best.

Licensed or not, there is no  
safe way to apply poison  
without causing harm to the  
environment, wildlife,  
children, and pets.

Safe poisons do not exist.



Photograph provided by A Place Called Hope