

SAFE ALTERNATIVES

- * Exclude rodent pests from your home by covering all gaps greater than ¼". Use ¼" wire mesh screening to cover foundation and attic vents or crawl spaces.
- * Practice good housekeeping in your environment. Pick up bird seed waste, and consider feeding instead with seed blocks or cakes which produce less waste. Don't leave pet food out, and store seed and pet food in pest-proof containers with tight-fitting lids. Make sure garbage bags are tied tightly and secured, and dumpsters closed and locked.
- * Remove piles of debris, excessive vegetation and English ivy. Replace with native plants which offer wildlife habitat.
- * Bait boxes with exits are NOT safe for wildlife. Glue traps are inhumane and often kill birds and other wildlife. Instead, use snap traps which are inexpensive and reusable. New designs are easier to use and less perilous for fingers, as they can be set with the foot.
- * Hire companies that do not use poison, but use snap traps instead and revisit to check the traps. Examples of "green" companies in the Bay Area: Pestec, Biopest, The Hit Men and California Exterminators.
- * Consider installing a Barn Owl nest box but only if everyone in the neighborhood commits to not using poison.

How to Build a Better Mousetrap

Then there's the "better mouse trap." You take a metal rod, run it through holes drilled in the center of both lids of an emptied tin soup can so the can becomes a spinning drum. Fasten both ends of the rod to the top of a plastic bucket via drilled holes. Coat the can with peanut butter, and fill the bucket with water and a shot of liquid soap (to break the surface tension and thus facilitate quicker, more humane drowning). Mice and rats jump onto the can, and it spins them into the water. The first time I deployed the device in my New Hampshire fishing camp, it killed 37 mice between Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

Ted Williams

Audubon Magazine, January-February 2013

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- * Recognizing the high risk to humans and wildlife of SGARs such as brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone and difenacoum, the EPA has urged manufacturers to remove them voluntarily from the market. All but Reckitt Benckiser, the maker of d-CON products, have complied.

Please don't buy these products:

Reckitt Benckiser

d-CON Concentrate Kills Rats & Mice
d-CON Ready Mixed Kills Rats & Mice
d-CON Mouse Prufe Kills Mice
d-CON Pellets Kills Rats & Mice
d-CON Mouse Prufe II
d-CON Pellets Generation II
d-CON Bait Pellets II
d-CON Ready Mixed Generation II
d-CON Mouse-Prufe III
d-CON Bait Pellets III
d-CON II Ready Mix Baitbits III
d-CON Bait Packs III

Liphatech Inc.

Generation Meal Bait Packs
Difethialone Bait Station
Difethialone 6G Paste PI Packs

Spectrum Brands

Rid-A-Rat Rat & Mouse Killer
Hot Shot Sudden Death Brand Mouse Killer
Hot Shot Sudden Death Brand Rat Killer 1
Hot Shot Sudden Death Brand Rat & Mouse Killer
Hot Shot Sudden Death Mouse Killer Bait Station

Retailers:

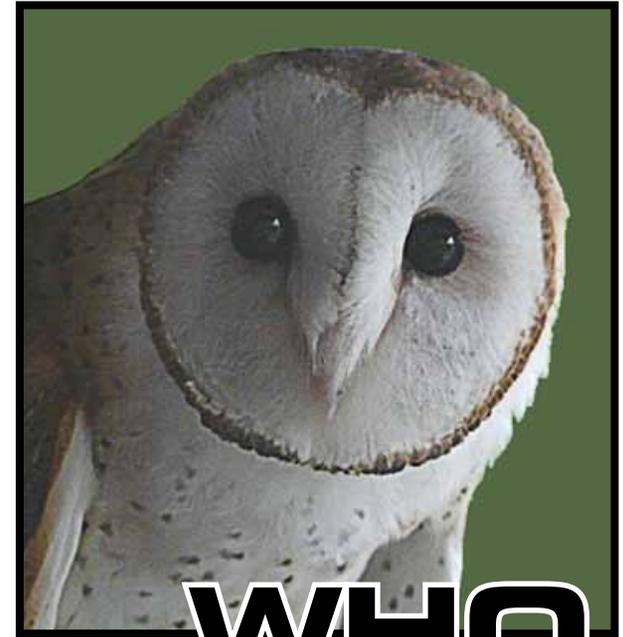
Please don't sell these products.

If you have any of these products on hand, please take the material to your hazardous waste facility for disposal. In Contra Costa County, call 1-800-750-4096 for locations and information or go to www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/recycle/.

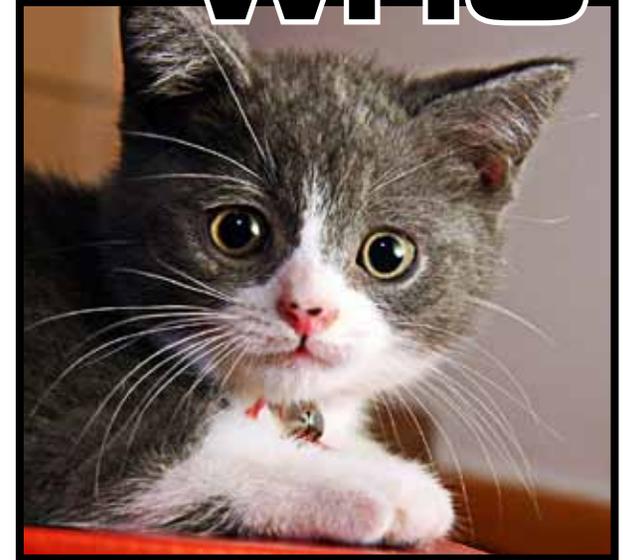


Mount Diablo Audubon Society

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www.diabloaudubon.com/index.php



WHO



WILL SAVE US?

An urgent appeal from

Mount Diablo Audubon Society

IT'S OUR JOB TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

"More than 50 years after Silent Spring, we're still using poisons to kill rodents when there are effective alternatives that are safer for people, pets and wildlife."

Ted Williams, Audubon Magazine

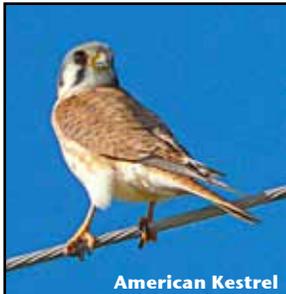
* Anticoagulant rodenticides commonly used to kill mice and rats interfere with blood clotting, resulting in uncontrollable bleeding which leads to death. Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides ("One Feeding Kills") are especially hazardous and persist for a long time in body tissues. These chemicals ("SGARs") work slowly, and the rodents often continue to ingest the poison for several days, causing the toxins to accumulate at many times the lethal dose.

* Predators or scavengers such as hawks, owls, foxes, bobcats and mountain lions—as well as family pets—which feed on the dead or dying rodents are also poisoned. SGAR victims include nestlings that consume the food their parents bring them and then die a gruesome and painful death.

* Since 2006, WildCare, a Bay Area wildlife hospital located in Marin, has conducted tests on wildlife either admitted or brought to its hospital post mortem. Whatever the primary cause of death, an average of 66% of the carcasses of raptors and other predators tested showed evidence of SGAR poisoning. Our widespread use of these poisons is killing at an alarming rate the animals most likely to help us control rodent populations. Some are calling SGARs "the next DDT."



Great Horned Owl



American Kestrel



San Joaquin Kit Fox

CHILDREN ARE CURIOUS

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 10,000 children are accidentally exposed to mouse and rat baits each year.



* Rodenticide products pose significant risks to human health. Children are particularly susceptible to accidental poisoning because they tend to play on floors and explore by putting items in their mouths.

* For companies that have complied with the new standards in 2011, EPA has received no reports of children being exposed to bait contained in bait stations. EPA expects to see a substantial reduction in exposures to children when the 12 d-CON products that do not comply with current standards are removed from the consumer market as millions of households use these products each year.

**LET'S STOP POISONING
CHILDREN, PETS
AND WILDLIFE!**



KEEP OUR PETS SAFE FROM DANGER

"Are you one of those people who think that a cat must go outside in order to be happy, that it's cruel to keep a cat inside? Actually, it can be more cruel to allow your cat to roam."

Humane Society of the United States



* SGARs can also be deadly to dogs and cats. In 2009 ASPCA's poison control hotline received more than 6,000 calls regarding dogs which had ingested rat poison. An estimated 7,000 pets were accidentally poisoned last year by rodenticides.

* Poisoning can occur either directly or indirectly. To dogs, rat poison looks like just another bowl of kibble, and its taste has been specially designed to appeal to animals. Other dogs and cats are poisoned when they consume sick or dead rodents.

* Ingestion of SGARs causes internal hemorrhage, anemia and, in worst cases, death for the pets. Immediate treatment is necessary, and may include a hospital stay, plasma, possible blood transfusion and repeat blood work.

* Cats that are allowed to roam outdoors are more likely to catch a disease or to be hit by a car.

* Keep your cat indoors and encourage others to do the same. If you are unwilling to keep your cat indoors, do not attract birds to your yard by putting out bird feeders, bird houses and bird baths.

