For Immediate Release

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) Initiates Campaign to Ban Rodenticide From Los Angeles

CLAW Working with LA City Councilmember Paul Koretz to Gain Support for Ordinance to Ban Purchase, Sale and Use of Anticoagulant Rodenticide - Lethal to Wildlife, Pets and Children

Los Angeles - September 16, 2013 – Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW), a non-profit public advocacy group, said today it is working with Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD5) to create an ordinance that bans the sale and use of anticoagulant rodenticides.

This is the first major campaign for the new organization whose objective is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of Los Angeles wildlife, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors, according to Alison Simard, co-Founder and chairman of CLAW (www.clawonline.org).

“Evidence and statistics reveal the disastrous impact of anticoagulant rodenticide on the wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains and other ecologically sensitive areas citywide,” said Simard. “They are lethal to all native wildlife, causing secondary and tertiary poisoning of indigenous apex predators. For example, once a rat consumes poison, it becomes sluggish and easy prey for bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, owls, hawks and other predators. Those animals are then poisoned as well.”

Councilmember Koretz said: "Rodenticides are having a terrible impact on the wildlife in the mountains in and around Los Angeles. I’m pleased to be working with CLAW and looking into ways we can protect our mountain lions and bobcats, and restore the natural balance of pest control in our wild areas."

Board member Skip Haynes added, “The purpose of the ordinance is to protect wildlife, pets and children from unintended poisoning and restore the natural pest control from the Santa Monica Mountains to the parks and rivers and all of the other ecologically sensitive areas struggling to survive in the urban interface. Even the schools are affected by this issue – LAUSD uses more than twenty pesticides on its campuses – including anticoagulant rodenticides."

CLAW’s campaign will educate Los Angeles residents about the dangers of anticoagulant rodenticide and aim to attract citywide support for an ordinance that, at minimum, targets a ban of purchase, sale and use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the hillsides and other ecologically sensitive areas of Los Angeles. In August, CLAW submitted a letter requested by Councilmember Koretz asking that the ordinance include:

- A city-wide ban on the sale and purchase of anticoagulant rodenticide.
- Prohibit the municipal, commercial, industrial, professional and private use of anticoagulant rodenticide particularly in hillsides and other ecologically sensitive areas and within 100 feet of parks, school zones, playgrounds and play structures.
- A system of fines be instituted to support this ordinance with increased fines in hillsides and ecologically sensitive areas as well as within 100 feet of parks, school zones, playgrounds and play structures.

“While we have been inspired by support resolutions passed by a handful of other cities in California, we believe that an ordinance in Los Angeles will go even farther to provide relief and leadership in the fight against this indiscriminate killer. We welcome support from neighborhood councils, associations and like-minded advocacy groups to push this ordinance through,” said Simard.

CLAW is calling on the community to support the effort at www.clawonline.org.

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