Alternatives to harmful rat and mice poisons

Snap traps are one of the most humane methods of rodent control, but make sure you set them up where pets and children can’t access them. The most effective spots to place snap traps are in high-activity areas like dark corners, along walls, behind appliances and objects, and all areas where droppings are evident.

There are also a range of other non-poison traps on shelves to investigate.

If you do decide to use rodenticides as a last resort, make sure you choose a natural alternative or first-generation rodenticide product.

The two most popular types of rat poison for sale:

1. **First-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide:** Look for active ingredients like Warfarin (Ratsak Double-strength) and Coumatetralyl (Racumin) in locked bait stations. The poison breaks down in the rodent quickly so less chance of secondary poisoning but is still a risk to animals that eat the bait directly. Use only in areas where pets and children cannot access if this poison needs to be used.

2. **Second-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide:** Look for active ingredients like Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum, Difethialone or Flocoumafen. Takes a long time to break down in the rodent. Poses a huge risk to animals that eat the bait or poisoned rodents. Avoid use entirely. Products include Talon, Fast Action RatSak, and The Big Cheese Fast Action brands.

3. **“Natural” alternatives:** These usually use salt to dehydrate rodents until they die and include products like RatSak Naturals. These products have not been shown to impact native wildlife through secondary poisoning.

Ensure you immediately dispose of any rodent carcasses to prevent harm of pets or wildlife. But remember – poisoned rodents can remain alive and active for days, so using rodenticides indoors won’t prevent them escaping and posing a risk to other animals.

For more info on our campaign to get these poisons off the shelves, and on how you can help in your community. Scan this code – QR code

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Standing together to stop extinctions
Visits from unwelcome pests

When rats or mice show up uninvited, we often reach straight for the rodent bait. But how we manage rodent infestations can have deadly impacts for our pets – and local wildlife.

The most deadly rodent poisons are known as Second-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides and are easily purchased from store shelves. These products work by causing internal bleeding and are very harmful for pets if they are accidentally eaten.

But while we do our best to ensure baits are placed out of the reach of pets, many people may not realise that some rodent poisons also have a terrible impact on native wildlife.

These products can kill not only the rats and mice they are targeting, but any bird or animal that might eat a dead or dying rodent. Slow-moving poisoned rodents can take several days to die – making them easy prey for other animals. They also move away from the places they are poisoned. A mouse baited in your roof likely won’t stay up there.

Studies have shown that endangered species like Powerful Owls, Wedge-tailed eagles and Quolls are all being impacted by rodenticides.

Keeping pets and other animals safe

The best way to keep your household pets and local native wildlife safe is to avoid the need for rodenticides in the first place by making your house and garden less enticing for rodents.

Try:
• Storing excess pet food where rodents can’t get to it
• Rodent-proofing your chicken pens and aviaries
• Sealing potential access points, such as roof and wall cavities
• Keeping your yard and pet areas clean and tidy.

If you suspect your pet has been poisoned

If your pet is vomiting/coughing up blood, bleeding from the gums or nose or having difficulty breathing, immediately phone your nearest vet or emergency veterinary clinic. Let your vet know if you think your pet could have been exposed to any rodenticides, including the name of the product and its active ingredients.

Ensure you immediately dispose of any rodent carcasses to prevent harm of pets or wildlife.