



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Victory for Wildlife! Rat Poisons to be Removed from Store Shelves by July 2014

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has adopted a regulation that makes the most dangerous second generation anticoagulant rodenticides, rat poisons, California restricted materials. This means in effect that the products will no longer be sold on retail store shelves and they will be out of reach to the general consumer.

The regulation affects all pesticide products containing the active ingredients brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone. Brand names for these products include d-Con and Generation.

WildCare applauds this new regulation as it will benefit untold numbers of wild animals that today carry heavy loads of anticoagulant poison in their bodies due to eating poisoned rodents.

Many people don't know that when a hawk or owl or other predator eats a poisoned rodent, that animal may get poisoned too. Because of this deadly effect on nontarget animals, WildCare strongly urges everyone to STOP using rat poisons (rodenticides)! These poisons are killing the very animals, like owls, hawks and foxes that naturally control rodents.

How do we know? As part of an ongoing investigation into the prevalence of rat poisons (rodenticides) in our environment through WildCare's Rodenticide Diagnosis and Advocacy Program (RDAP), we test predator patients in our Wildlife Hospital for evidence of rodenticide poisoning.

Recently released 2013 data from WildCare's RDAP shows that **76.8% of tested wild animals had a positive result for exposure to rat poison in 2013.**

Visit www.wildcarebayarea.org/rodenticide for more information on WildCare's 2013 testing data.

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Wild animals are eating poisoned rodents and carrying varying loads of toxic poison in their systems as a result. This evidence from WildCare, located in Marin County and the closest wildlife hospital to San Francisco, proves that the rat poison used by residents of the Bay Area is having dangerous and detrimental effects on the wildlife of our area.

“This is a practical sensible regulation that goes a long way to protecting our wildlife,” said Brian Leahy, DPR Director. “Second generation anticoagulant rodenticides can contain some pretty powerful chemistry. Restricting the use of SGARs to only certified applicators will significantly reduce unintended exposures to non- target wildlife.”

WildCare’s Director of Wildlife Solutions and Advocacy, Kelle Kacmarcik agrees.

“WildCare has been working with DPR, US EPA and California Department of Fish and Wildlife on this issue for many years,” she says. “We are thrilled to share this announcement and we congratulate DPR for taking this important step toward the health of our wildlife.”

Contact WildCare to visit our San Rafael Wildlife Hospital and museum, and meet live wild animals that could be affected by rat poison like a Red-tailed Hawk and a Northern Spotted Owl.

WildCare leads the way in showing Bay Area people how to live well with wildlife through a complete cycle of respectful, practical and humane programs in wildlife treatment and environmental education.

Each year WildCare treats as many as 4,000 ill, injured or orphaned wild animals of 200 different species in our wildlife rehabilitation hospital, teaches more than 40,000 Bay Area child and adult participants in our environmental education programs, assists residents and businesses with wildlife dilemmas with our Wildlife Solutions service, and answers thousands of telephone calls concerning human/wildlife interaction on our Living with Wildlife Hotline – 415.456.SAVE.