

Better choices if you need to use poison

If you do decide to use rodenticides as a last resort make sure you choose a product that is less harmful to birds, wildlife and pets.

Ensure you purchase products with the active poison ingredients **sodium chloride, warfarin, coumatetralyl, or diphacinone**. Purchase baits that come in block form and ensure they are used in tamper-proof bait stations. Avoid bait pellets or pastes as these can easily be eaten by other animals. Always immediately dispose of any rodent carcasses to prevent harm of pets or wildlife and 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.

The following products don't contain SGARs and are commonly available in supermarkets and hardware shops:

- Ratsak Naturals (a human and pet safe bait option)
- Bayer Racumin Rat and Mouse Paste
- Yates RATSAK Double Strength Bait Station



SGARs can kill pets or wildlife that eat dead or dying rodents.

Do not use SGAR products

Packaging for SGARs can be unclear, but as a safe bet avoid products with the ingredients **brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, difenacoum or flocoumafen**. These include products like Talon, Fast Action RatSak and The Big Cheese Fast Action brands.

For a more comprehensive list of product names and information about how you can help get these poisons off the shelves, **scan this QR code:**



For more information about other products and our campaign go to actforbirds.org or scan this QR code.

IMAGES: POWERFUL OWL BY ANDREW SILCOCKS, NANKEEN KESTREL BY HEATHER THORNING

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Pet-friendly rodent control

Keep our pets safe.



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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.

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.



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



Keep pets and other animals safe

The best way to keep your household pets and local native wildlife safe is to avoid the need for poison 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 or 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.

Alternatives to harmful rat and mouse 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 amongst 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.



Recent Australian studies have found fatal levels of SGARs in birds of prey, including Southern Boobook owls, Wedge-tailed Eagles, and Powerful Owls.