Poison is killing the wildlife in your neighborhood... You can Help!

National Park Service (NPS) biologists have studied bobcat populations in urban areas within and near Thousand Oaks since 1996. Before 2000, there were no bobcat deaths due to Mange. Then in 2001, one bobcat was found dead from mange. In 2002 it was eight, and in 2003 it was 10. The Park Service began doing necropsies on the dead cats and found that in 90 percent of the cats with mange, there were also high levels of anticoagulants in the liver. This was also true for coyotes and mountain lions. Why the sudden decline? By 2002, a new generation of rat poisons was on the market. Before that, Warfarin was the main ingredient in rat poisons, but eventually the rats developed a genetic resistance to it. Companies then began creating compounds known as second-generation anticoagulants that were longer lasting and more potent. Unfortunately, they are advertised as safe to use outside the home and people use them unaware of the harm that is being done to predatory wildlife. Bobcats, Coyotes, Owls and other predatory wildlife.

BAIT BOX filled with poison

BRODIFACOUM
Trade Names: Ialon, Havoc, D-Con
Mechanism of Action: second-generation anticoagulant. Absorbed through the gut and inhibits the vitamin K-dependent steps in the synthesis of multiple clotting factors. Death usually occurs through gastric hemorrhage. Metabolism: brodifacoum is retained in the tissues at high rates, sometimes remaining in organ systems during the entire lifetime of an exposed animal. In a study that measured the retention of radioactive brodifacoum in the livers of single-dosed rats, 34% of the single dose is found in the liver after 13 weeks, and 11% of the dose remained in the liver for 104 weeks, approaching the normal lifespan of a rat (U.S. EPA MRID 42007502).
What Are Anticoagulant Rodenticides?
Rodenticides are a category of pest control chemicals designed to kill rodents. Anticoagulants are compounds that act by blocking the Vitamin K cycle, which is essential for the production of blood-clotting factors such as factors II (prothrombin), VII (proconvertin), IX and X. Anticoagulant rodenticides are the most common method used for rodent control worldwide. They are frequently used commercially in parks, golf courses, and around office buildings, parks, apartments, water sheds, reservoirs to control small mammals including rats, rabbits, gophers, and squirrels (these small animals are common food items for local native carnivores).

Poisoning occurs when an animal directly consumes the rodenticide bait. Secondary poisoning occurs when a predatory animal consumes a prey animal that has consumed the rodenticide bait.

Within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, bobcats, mountain lions, and coyotes have been secondarily poisoned by anticoagulant rodenticides. Although local biologists have not yet documented the secondary poisoning of other wildlife species, it is possible that other predatory animals such as owls, hawks, snakes, raccoons, fox and weasels are also affected. The issue is global.

Laurel Klien

You Can Help!
Alternatives to Anticoagulant Poisons

We all are responsible for the health of our local wildlife. Only we can make a difference by using alternatives to poison and demand those in our neighborhoods do the same.

**SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CAN’T**

- Keep all trash + food tightly contained, woodpiles and debris picked up, drainage pipes clean and fill the ends with chicken wire to prevent rats from entering and setting up house, also remove bird feeders until the problem is under control.
- Rodents love vines. Remove them.
- Rodents and especially mice are allergic to oil of peppermint and will not frequent a property where they can smell it. If you place a few drops of oil of peppermint on a piece of cotton or anywhere, it also repels bugs and spiders. Use only the “real” oil of peppermint, not peppermint extract. Plant peppermint in your garden to keep all types of rodents away from the plants.
- Ground covers that rodents do not like to live in or be around. These are adjuga, carpet bugle, cape weed, chamomile, Indian rock strawberry and creeping speed well.
- Natural Predators, hire some barn owls to address your rodent problem by installing some nesting boxes. A family of 6 barn owls can consume as many as 16 or more rats in one night. (see [www.owlnestboxes.com](http://www.owlnestboxes.com) and [www.wildwingco.com](http://www.wildwingco.com)).
- Rodents will avoid certain plants that give off repulsive scents. These include daffodils, hyancinth and scillia.
- Gopher purge (uphorbia lathyrus) is a plant that contains pods each containing three seeds. The plant is a natural repellent to gophers and moles and all other burrowing animals. The roots are poisonous to them as well as humans that it will eliminate the problem.
- Snap or electric traps (being mindful where you place these so other animals or birds are not caught.)
- **Talk ,Talk ,Talk** with business’s in your area that you see have bait boxes out, they will be placed around the sides and back of buildings. Bait boxes are designed to attract rodents. It defeats the purpose of removing all the attractions.