

Responsible Use of Pesticides on Raptors View Wildlife Estate
RVHOA Eco Committee

#2: Responsible Rodenticide Use

June 2022

Refer to issue #1 in the RVHOA series of guidelines covering the 'Responsible Use of Pesticides on Raptors View Wildlife Estate' for a basic overview of using pesticides in a responsible manner

Background

- We are all extremely grateful that the last couple of rainy seasons have shown average or slightly above average rainfall on our estate (refer to page 6 of the latest environment assessment report for our estate: <https://raptorsview.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/RaptorsEXECMO21v1.pdf>)
- As you know, increased rainfall versus previous dry seasons has resulted in an increase in vegetation biomass on the estate & in turn, it is expected that the natural population of rodents, both indigenous & invasive species, will be higher than previous seasons due to this abundance of food
- As the winter months approach however, & the subsequent availability of food sources become limited, it is probable that those of us living in the bush will see an increase in rodents visiting our homes in search of food
- It is an unfortunate fact that rodents can be very destructive in our homes via their chewing activities, feeding on our foodstuffs & contaminating foodstuffs via their urine & faeces
- Therefore, it may become necessary to use a pesticide that targets rodents, namely a 'rodenticide'

Responsible use of rodenticides

- There are a number of chemical (rodenticides) & physical (traps – both lethal & 'catch-&-release' types) rodent control methods available on the market
 - o Personally, I believe glue traps targeting rodents are totally inhuman & would never resort to such measures
- As residents may resort to the DIY use of rodenticides in their homes on the estate, the following guidelines are provided:
 - o ALWAYS.....
 - Always keep any rodenticide (even if purchased from a supermarket) locked away from children, uninformed persons & wildlife when not in use
 - Just because they can be purchased from a supermarket does not mean rodenticides are harmless to humans & wildlife
 - Always purchase registered rodenticides from reputable outlets (co-op, supermarkets, etc.)
 - Always read the supplied label before using a rodenticide
 - Always place rodenticides in bait stations firmly fixed to an immovable object & out the reach of children

- The use of block, pellet or paste rodenticides without them being contained in a bait station is not environmentally compatible or safe for humans in the home
 - Always deploy bait stations containing rodenticides INDOORS only – if placed outdoors non-target wildlife can gain access to the rodenticide contained therein
 - We all have experienced what squirrels, hyaenas & primates, to name a few, can do to items outside our homes
 - Always inspect bait stations daily & replace consumed rodenticide **very** 3-4 days
 - Always inspect your home & surrounds for dead rodents every day from the fourth day after the first application
 - using hand gloves, collect dead rodents & dispose of carcasses in sealed plastic bags in the refuse
 - as we live on a wildlife estate, burying dead rodents is not a good idea
 - removing dead rodents regularly reduces the risk of secondary poisoning should predators consume the dead or dying rodent
- NEVER
 - Never mix other pesticides with products like peanut butter to make your own rodenticide
 - Such homemade baits indiscriminately attract & kill non-target mammals, reptiles & insects
 - Never simply disperse rodenticides in & around your home
 - humans & wildlife can be poisoned with such indiscriminate dispersal
 - uneaten rodenticide at the end of the control programme can not easily be collected & disposed of
 - Never use more than 1 rodenticide bait block / pack at a time
 - rather inspect bait stations daily & only replenish when necessary

What is 'secondary poisoning'?

- secondary rodenticide poisoning is the intoxication of a non-target animal consuming parts of a rodent that is dying or has died following the consumption of a rodenticide
- said intoxication can be either debilitating or lethal
- in order to avoid the risk of such secondary poisoning it is critical that when using a rodenticide you
 - Always use a rodenticide bait station
 - Always inspect, remove & dispose of dead rodents
 - Only choose rodenticides that are known to have a lower risk for causing secondary poisoning
 - Wax blocks containing coumatetralyl as the active ingredient
 - Eg: Racumin Wax block bait
 - Soft baits containing cholecalciferol as the active ingredient, or a mixture of coumatetralyl and cholecalciferol
 - Eg: EcoRat rodenticide, or the Racumin 3D Paste

In case of emergencies, call:
the 24/7 Poison Information Helpline; **086 155 5777**
or
- 24/7 Griffon Poison Information Centre, **082 446 8946**

Rodenticide Safety



ALWAYS

- Keep rodenticides out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep rodenticides locked away when not in use.
- Place rodenticides where they are NOT visible or accessible to children and pets.
- Apply rodenticides in bait stations affixed to walls.
- Collect and dispose of spilled rodenticide products safely.
- Collect and dispose of dead rodents safely.
- Keep the number of the poison information centre available to call in case of accidental ingestion.



NEVER

- Allow children to handle rodenticides.
- Leave rodenticides unattended.
- Use unregistered poisons to kill rodents.
- Mix rodenticides with food grade materials such as peanut butter.



EMERGENCY NUMBER
Griffon Poison Information Centre
+27 (0)82 446 8946

MEMBER LOGO

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www.croplife.co.za