



May 28, 2015

Position Statement on Humane Rodent Control

Adopted by the Sonoma Humane Society Board of Directors

The Sonoma Humane Society (SHS) supports, promotes and strives to be the foremost advocate for the best policies, procedures and practices as they apply to the animals of Sonoma County and beyond. Toward the accomplishment of these goals, the SHS Board of Directors adopts the following:

SHS promotes the employment of humane and non-toxic rodent control. Conversely, we strongly condemn the use of poisons or rodenticides.

Rodenticides and other toxic chemical poisons used for rodent and pest control not only lead to an inhumane death for the intended animal but they also contaminate the food chain and thereby contribute to systemic poisoning of our ecosystem.

Rodenticides cause a painful and sometimes lengthy end, not only for the rodent itself, but secondarily to other animals which might ingest either the poison or the dead rodent. Rodenticides “work by inhibiting blood clotting or inducing seizures or kidney failure, all of which lead to death. In addition to causing an inhumane death for the rodents, rodenticides also pose a risk to [domestic] animals” as well¹.

Recent data collected by Marin's WildCare organization showed that 68.1 percent of the (non-rodent) animals brought into their hospital tested positive for rodenticides². In addition, 95,000 pet poisonings due to rodenticides were reported to American Poisons

¹ "Poison Control", Animal Sheltering magazine, May-June 2012

² "A Victory for Wildlife!" WildCare Press Release, July 2014

Control Centers in 2010³. Due to the findings in these and many similar studies, we stand strongly opposed to the use of rodenticides and poisons as accepted rodent control methods.

While rodent control is sometimes an urgent matter, we urge consideration of the potential impact on wild and domestic animals when contemplating the use of toxic agents. As a far preferable option, we endorse several humane and ecological methods outlined by WildCare and the Hungry Owl Project⁴: Exclusion, Prevention, Cooperation within the community, Advocacy, Research, and the attraction of beneficial natural predators. -These natural and proactive approaches will ensure a safe environment, and when properly employed can lead to acceptable and harmonious existence between humankind and the rodent world.

We adopt this position today, **May 28, 2015** and declare it to be in accordance with the Sonoma Humane Society mission statement: *Ensuring every animal receives protection, compassion, love and care.*



Evelyn Mitchell, President
Sonoma Humane Society Board of Directors

³ "Protecting Raptors from Rodenticides", The Bio-Integral Resource Center, January 2013

⁴ "7 Steps to Non-Toxic Rodent Control", Hungry Owl Project, Novato, CA