

Dear

I was very concerned to see that you are currently selling rodent poisons (rodenticides) in your shop. As one of your customers I am writing to you to request that you remove all rodenticide poisons from public sale due to the suffering to wildlife and the damage to the environment they can potentially cause.

Rodenticides are;

1. Cruel and cause extreme and prolonged suffering
2. Indiscriminate with many species of wildlife – both target and non-target - being affected, as well as companion animals
3. A pollutant to both soil and water table
4. Ultimately ineffective

After ingesting poisons, rats typically remain conscious until their death and so remain capable of experiencing symptoms, such as severe pain, breathlessness, thirst and fear. This commonly lasts for multiple days. (Baker et al (2022)).

Due to the indiscriminate nature of these poisons & how they are designed to work, there are often multiple victims, with many being species that are endangered or protected. One recent such case is that of a white-tailed eagle in Dorset, with the numbers of birds of prey affected rising each year (Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme, part of the HSE).

Research by the Natural History Museum found that the UK only has half of its natural biodiversity remaining and is in the bottom 10% of the planet in terms of biodiversity. Having products on sale that kill wildlife and poison the environment is completely counterintuitive at such a critical time, a time when working sensitively with nature is of paramount importance.

When compared to the G7 countries, this puts the UK is at the very bottom in terms of how much biodiversity still survives. When compared across all countries in the European Union, only Ireland and Malta come out worse, and the UK is in the bottom 10% of all countries globally.

Killing rats does not reduce the rat population in an area, in the long term. This is because if there is a good source of food in an area and the environment remains attractive, more rats will quickly move into the area to replace those who have been killed.

Please help nature and wildlife in the UK thrive once again. Removing rodenticide from public sale will be a step in this direction and will help to stop many unnecessary and painful deaths, as well as reduce toxic pollution. Please pledge your support by agreeing to do this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/health/poisoning/common>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/29/dead-eagle-found-in-dorset-was-poisoned-but-case-closed-police-confirm>