

# The Critter Chronicle

Summer/Fall, 2018

## What's the Critter Chronicle?

A quarterly newsletter designed to provide residents of Old Agoura with information on best practices for coexisting with wildlife.

## Who creates this newsletter?

It's a team effort via Poison Free Agoura, the Old Agoura Homeowner board, residents of Agoura communities, our resources in the National Park Service, and the California Wildlife Center.

## Where can I find past issues and information on living with wildlife in Agoura Hills?

On the Poison Free Agoura/Coexist with Urban wildlife website:  
<https://PoisonFreeAgoura.com>

## What if I have questions?

Directors @Oldagoura.org

Attn: Carolyn Trocino, Director, Urban Wildlife Education and Communication, Old Agoura Homeowners.

Carolyn is also the Director of Poison Free Agoura. Many members of our community are on the Poison Free Agoura team. Poison Free Agoura works with Poison Free Malibu in providing information on safe alternatives to rat poisons.

PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PoisonFreeAgoura/>

Twitter and Instagram: #PoisonFreeAgoura, @PFAGoura.



## In this newsletter:

- ⇒ Important contact information
- ⇒ Ideas for coexisting with wildlife
- ⇒ Rat poisons

## California Wildlife Center (CWC)

310.458.WILD(9453)  
26026 Piuma Rd, Calabasas, CA 91302

We are fortunate to have a wildlife and rehabilitation facility near Old Agoura. Check out the CWC's FAQ page for answers to wildlife questions.  
<http://cawildlife.org/faq/>



It is recommend to call CWC if you need assistance. The animal you are inquiring about may not need rescuing or it may be an animal the center does not take.

## Nature Neighbor Project

The Nature Neighbor project is great resource for learning how to coexist with our wild friends. Cathy Schoonmaker, Urban Wildlife Specialist, NPS and SAMO provides us with great information on coexisting with wildlife.

<https://www.nps.gov/samo/learn/management/nature-neighbor-project.htm>



Poison Free Agoura and Poison Free Malibu  
Teams working together for People, Pets, and Urban Wildlife!

# Coexist with Urban Wildlife

Join Poison Free Agoura and Old Agoura Homeowners in breaking the Poison Chain!



Many Old Agoura residence are proudly displaying signs in support of the Santa Monica Mountains fund, "Break the Poison Chain."

Please contact Carolyn Trocino if you are interested in putting a sign on your private property. Click on the link to take the pledge:

<https://www.samofund.org/stewardship/break-the-poison-chain-v-3-a/>



We are fortunate to live with an **abundance of urban wildlife** in Agoura Hills. Our wildlife has learned to adapt to the changes brought by human beings moving into their environment. **Here's some ideas** to help you coexist with wildlife. **Got ideas?** We'd love to hear from you! [Directors@OldAgoura.org](mailto:Directors@OldAgoura.org)

## RATS

Rats like warm engines. Here's a picture of a rat on my engine. A spray that is a combination of **Spearmint oil** and **Cinnamon oil** seems to be deterring the nest building. Shining a **bright LED light** over the engine at night and **leaving the hood up** are practices that have worked for me.



Poison Free Malibu encourages everyone to see **RED** and **"REPEL/EXCLUDE/DETER"** rats.

Visit the **Poison Free Agoura/Coexist with Urban Wildlife** and **Poison Free Malibu** websites to learn more about alternatives to rat poisons.

<https://PoisonFreeMalibu.org> and <https://PoisonFreeAgoura.com>.

## BIRDS AND TREE TRIMMING



It's **still too early** to trim your trees. The **California Wildlife Center** recommends tree trimming in late **Fall** and early **Winter** as birds begin nesting in **January**. The nesting period usually ends in **November**.

## COYOTES

**Accompany** your dogs, chickens, cats, and other small **domestic pets when they are outside**. Coyotes are **diurnal** animals. I've tracked them on my wildlife cameras during day and evening hours. A **simple way** to haze them is to **yell and wave your arms**. You can **carry a whistle** with you while walking your dog. Keep pet food **inside your home**.



# Please keep me safe.



Patrick, the "Poison-Free Pup"

According to the Pet Poison Helpline®, Mouse and Rat Poisons (rodenticides) rank #2 on its top ten dog poisons list.

Rats and mice do not die in the bait boxes. Dying or dead rats are easy prey for wildlife and domestic pets. Please visit our sites to learn about alternatives to rodent poisons. Source: <https://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/pet-owners/basics/top-10-pet-poisons/>



### DID YOU KNOW?

- ⇒ The City of Agoura Hills has a resolution opposing the sale, purchase, and use of Anticoagulant rodenticides
- ⇒ The City of Agoura Hills supports the Break the Chain campaign