

The Critter Chronicle

Summer 2021

The “Critter Chronicle” is a quarterly newsletter designed to provide you with information on best practices for coexisting with urban wildlife in Agoura Hills!

To learn more about our wild friends, join our group of Facebook! [Coexist with Urban Wildlife in Agoura Hills](#)

We are lucky to have an abundance of wildlife AND natural forms of rodent control in our community.

Rodents provide a natural food source for our coyotes. These skillful hunters are seen at all times—morning, afternoon, and evening! Cats, small dogs, and chickens are never safe when left unattended outside.

As a community, let’s help coyotes do their job in controlling rodent populations by keeping them focused on natural prey. **The National Park Service (NPS)** provides a wonderful brochure on coexisting with coyotes.



Click on the link to access the brochure and other Critter Chronicle newsletters! Since **2017**, we’ve created newsletters designed to help you coexist with wildlife in Agoura Hills!

[Wildlife Newsletters \(poisonfreeagoura.com\)](#)

SAVE THE DATE: We’ll have a webinar on living with coyotes on August 5 from 5:00—6:00 (PDT).



Webinar: July 8th from 12:00—1:00



Join us on July 8th to learn more about the **California Wildlife Center (CWC)** and what to do if you find an injured or orphaned animal.

<https://cawildlife.org/>

Check out the **CWC website** to learn more about coexisting with our wild friends, what to do if you find injured wildlife, and when to **trim your trees** to keep wildlife safe.

To attend the webinar, register via our **Special Events** page: [Special Events \(poisonfreeagoura.com\)](#) You can also view our past events!

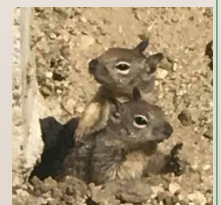
Living with Ground Squirrels

Ground Squirrels are adorable and destructive. I’ve found them easy to manage if you **create an environment that is not desirable for them.**

Here are some ideas!

- ⇒ Break up the burrows and pat down the burrows.
- ⇒ Use a pepper-based product to put in the holes.
- ⇒ Spray foundations of buildings with a mint-based product.
- ⇒ Castor oil products are foul-smelling products that deter ground squirrels.
- ⇒ Motion detecting water sprays repel ground squirrels.
- ⇒ Clean up food sources (bird seed is an attractant).
- ⇒ Remove trash and rake up fruit, nuts, and berries.

It is important to **monitor the holes to ensure the squirrels are not digging again.** Your persistence will pay off!



Poison Free Agoura Update



Together, we're better!

We're excited about our new coalition of cities called **Cities Against Rat Poisons**. Founded by **Poison Free Malibu** and **Poison Free Agoura**, our focus is on education regarding the dangers rat poisons pose to **people, pets, and wildlife**.

<https://citiesagainstratpoisons.com>

Welcome Bags

Many new neighbors in **Old Agoura** and **Liberty Canyon** (2020-2021) received welcome bags that contain information on **poison-free alternatives and coexisting with our wild friends!** A big thank you to the many organizations such as **NPS, Cougar Conservancy, Poison Free Malibu, the California Wildlife Center** and **Save LA Cougars** for contributing brochures and stickers for our bags! Many thanks to **Sally Bartel, Rudy C'Dealva, Linda Rich, Illece Buckley Weber**, and the **Old Agoura Homeowners' board!**

Bobcats—deceased or sick with mange —Agoura Hills

Recently, we received a call about a sick bobcat near the Jess Thomas bridge along the creek trail in the parkland that borders Old Agoura. The bobcat appeared to have mange. Here is a link to an article on the National Park



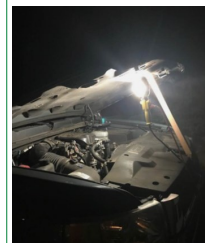
Service (NPS) on the link between rodenticides and mange in bobcats. [Bobcats and Mange](#)

There have been numerous sightings of bobcats with mange in **Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, and Topanga Canyon**. If you see a sick bobcat or coyote that appears to have mange, please send an email to PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com.

These three pictures are of bobcats found or seen in the last year. One of them was **B -372**. The anniversary of her death was June 8. Of the three, she was the only collared bobcat. According to NPS, her necropsy reported **brodifacoum, bromadiolone, and diphacinone** in her liver. While there is a **temporary moratorium** on **brodifacoum** and **bromadiolone** use, **diphacinone**, a dangerous **first-generation** anticoagulant rodenticide is available to consumers and pest control operators. **Instead of using rodent poisons, please contact us for help.** (Photo credit for **B-372**: NPS)



Oh rats!



We're seeing more cars in the neighborhood with the hoods up! **Repairs to car wiring are expensive!** Leaving the **hood up** and shining an **LED light** in

the engine area are good ways to deter rodents. Please visit our **blog and website** for more ideas on repelling, excluding, and deterring rats from vehicles.

[Oh, rats! \(poisonfreeagoura.com\)](http://www.poisonfreeagoura.com)

Signs and Magnets

Please send an email to us if you would like a **Protect our Wildlife! Sign** or **magnet**. We have around 30 signs up in **Old Agoura** and signs in **Liberty Canyon**.



Our **refrigerator magnets** have important numbers to call for wildlife conflicts, research, rehabilitation and more!

PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com

We can help you!

Rats eating your car wires? Ground squirrels digging holes around your property? Gophers taking a walk on the wild side across your lawn? Please contact us or visit the **Poison Free Agoura** website [Poison Free Agoura/Coexist with Wildlife](#) and the **Poison Free Malibu** website [Poison Free Malibu](#) to learn about alternative methods to poisons.