

The Critter Chronicle

Winter 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!

What’s happening with wildlife?



We are lucky to have an abundance of wildlife AND natural forms of rodent control in our community. Liberty Canyon resident Sally Bartel is capturing incredible footage via wildlife cameras provided by Poison Free Agoura. Here are interesting facts about bobcats. They are nocturnal and crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk). Bobcats are excellent climbers and not afraid of water. Their diet consists mostly of rabbits and rodents. Visit the California Wildlife Center site: [California Wildlife Center - Protecting California's native wildlife \(cawildlife.org\)](http://cawildlife.org) Visit Sally’s YouTube channel link: [Sally Bartel - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

To learn more about our wild friends, Join our group on Facebook! [Coexisting with Agoura Hills Urban Wildlife | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CoexistingwithAgouraHillsUrbanWildlife)



Many residents love seeing great blue herons in our community and in the nearby parkland. To keep cool on hot days, these magnificent birds droop their wings. You may also witness “gular fluttering” where the bird opens its mouth and flutters its neck muscles. [How Birds Keep Their Cool | Audubon](https://www.audubon.org/resources/how-birds-keep-their-cool)

If you patiently observe herons, you may see them hunt and catch gophers. The great blue herons, along with the bobcat, coyote, owls, and hawks are nature’s gifts of rodent control.

Coexist with Mountain Lions Webinar 3/31/2021 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Our speakers are Cathy Schoonmaker of the National Park Service and Korinna Domingo of Cougar Conservancy. Learn how to keep your pets, miniature horses, and other livestock safe and secure at night. Gain more insight into mountain lion behavior and learn about the mountain lions in our area. Sign up today! [Special Events Poison Free Agoura/Coexist with](https://www.poisontfreeagoura.org/events/coexist-with-wildlife)



[Wildlife](#)



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 our wildlife.

[Cities Against Rat Poison](#) | [Poison Free Agoura/Coexist with Wildlife](#)



poison free Malibu



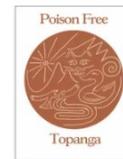
Protect your pets!

AB 1788 placed a moratorium on dangerous second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides. First-generation anticoagulant rodenticides are available for consumer purchase and use by pest control professionals. They continue to be a significant source of secondary poisoning of wildlife. **Listed below are non-anticoagulant poisons that are extremely dangerous and used for rodent control. The poisons do not have antidotes! Keep your pets and wildlife safe!**

Rat poison from someone else's yard killed our beloved pet Sasha.



Please do not use poisons in your yard. Rodents carry it away and endanger your neighbors' children and pets.



Bromethalin: The National Park Service reported deceased Puma 67 (P-67) had exposure to five different anticoagulant rodenticide compounds and bromethalin. Bromethalin is a neurotoxin that affects the brain and liver. [Bromethalin Is Toxic To Dogs | Pet Poison Helpline](#)

Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D): Cholecalciferol is one of the most potent and dangerous mouse and rat poisons on the market and impacts non-target animals. It causes high calcium and phosphorus levels in the body resulting in kidney failure. [Cholecalciferol Is Toxic To Dogs | Pet Poison Helpline](#)

Strychnine: Strychnine is often used for killing ground squirrels, gophers, and moles. It also causes secondary poisoning of animals that eat the poisoned squirrels. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is seeing more strychnine-related wildlife deaths in recent years. [Strychnine Is Toxic To Dogs | Pet Poison Helpline](#)

If you use poisons, switch your service to poison-free alternatives. Poisoned rats do not die in bait boxes. They stagger around for three to ten days. When neighbors use poisons, dying rats are often seen in the street or neighbors' yards. Keep your neighbors, pets, and wildlife safe by using alternatives to rodent poisons.



Trash

If you want to attract rats, create a food source by overfilling your trash cans.

Your rats become your neighbor's rats. Wildlife feeds on overflowing garbage and spreads trash on the street.

Please be mindful of wildlife and your neighbors by keeping your trash at the level where you can close the lid.



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 our site and the [Poison Free Malibu](#) site [Poison Free Malibu](#) to learn about alternative methods to poisons. Email: PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com Website: [Poison Free Agoura/Coexist with Wildlife](#)