

The Critter Chronicle

Winter, 2017

A quarterly newsletter designed to provide you with information on best practices for coexisting with urban wildlife in Old Agoura!



What's the "I Wish" and the "Why" behind the newsletter?

Hi neighbor! I'm Carolyn Trocino, member of the Old Agoura Homeowner Board and a 14-year, Old Agoura resident. The "I Wish" is for tips I wish I knew when I moved to Old Agoura. The "Why" is for the desire to share ideas and learn from you and other neighbors about coexisting with our urban wildlife. By the way, all the pictures on this page were taken in our backyard on Fairview Place!

In this newsletter:

- ◆ Coexist with Urban Wildlife Event
- ◆ Volunteers—we need you for our Poison Free Agoura project!
- ◆ Rodenticides and mitigating rodent issues
- ◆ Protect children and domestic pets
- ◆ 2014 City of Agoura Hills Resolution



Join us Jan. 7th!

Coexist With Urban Wildlife Event

When: January 7, 2018 from 3:00 to 5:00

Where: Agoura Bible Fellowship,
5564 Foothill Drive, Agoura Hills

Speakers: Kian and Joel Schulman of Poison Free Malibu

Special Guest: Cathy Schoonmaker, Urban Wildlife Specialist,
NPS and SAMO

RSVP via our website: <https://www.oldagoura.org>



Dead Rats? Where did they come from?

Poisoned rodents wander and weaken before bleeding to death making them easy targets for domestic pets and area wildlife. National Park Service (NPS) test results indicated 92% of bobcats, 83% of coyotes, and 92% of mountain lions were exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides. Watch the video on alternatives to rat poison via the link: <https://www.nps.gov/samo/learn/management/rodenticides.htm>



Did you know?

- ◆ Fruit trees and bird feeders are rodent attractors
- ◆ Some horse feed such as oat hay attract rats and mice
- ◆ Snap and electric traps are alternatives to rodenticides
- ◆ Rodent exclusion companies can help you seal up your home
- ◆ According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California banned retail sale of rodent poisons (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, and difethialone) as of July 1, 2014
- ◆ Rodent control companies can still use the poisons banned in California retail sales
- ◆ Gopher recommendations: reduce attractants and use traps instead of rodent poison

Poison Free Agoura

We are seeking volunteers who want to join our efforts in creating a **Poison Free Agoura!** The time commitment is 2.5 hours per month.

Training session:

January 14 3:00—5:00 in Agoura (location TBD)

Overview:

As a volunteer, you will identify usage of rodenticides in shopping centers, schools, and business locations in Agoura.

You will also be responsible for providing education to your neighbors about the dangers of rodenticides and safe alternatives to rodenticides.

Interested? Please send a note to poisonfreeagouratoday@gmail.com for more details.

Short Life of Santa Monica Mountains Mountain Lion P-34

December 2014
14 months old



September 2015
23 months old



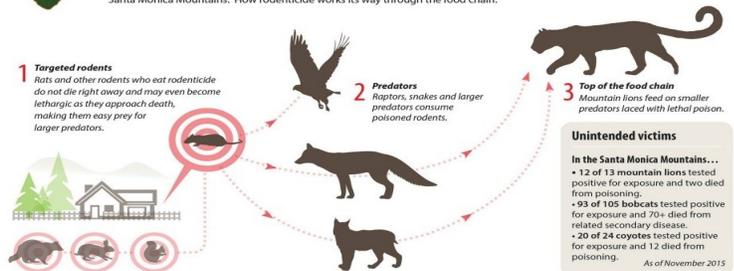
KILLED BY FIVE DIFFERENT RODENT POISONS

"The compounds found in P-34's system were brodifacoum, bromadiolone, chlorophacinone, difethialone and diphacinone." – National Park Service www.nps.gov/samo/learn/news/p-34-test-results-confirmed.htm



Lethal Dose: Rat Poison & Local Wildlife

Local residents may inadvertently be poisoning wildlife. National Park Service researchers have found a direct link between exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides, commonly known as rat poison, and the deaths of wildlife in and around the Santa Monica Mountains. How rodenticide works its way through the food chain:



How anticoagulant rodenticide kills
These compounds interrupt blood-clotting, which leads to uncontrolled bleeding and death. They may also suppress the animal's immune system, making it susceptible to other diseases. **Symptoms include:**

- Nosebleeds
- Bleeding gums
- Ruptured blood vessels, causing bruising
- Internal hemorrhaging
- Secondary disease, such as mange
- Blood in urine and feces

What is mange?

A microscopic mite that burrows into the skin and causes...
1. Extreme Itchiness and skin lesions.
2. Fluid and nutrient loss through the skin.
3. Infection, starvation, hypothermia or other complications, eventually leading to death.

Check the label

Here are the most common anticoagulant compounds:

- Bromadiolone
- Brodifacoum
- Diphacinone
- Difethialone

Protect your children and fur babies from poisons!



Dogs and Cats!

Dogs and cats are at risk of poisoning from rodenticides.

Many times the symptoms of poisoning do not appear for days.

Here is a link to an interesting video by Doctor Karen Becker on the effects of anticoagulant poisoning on our domestic pets:

<https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2014/10/12/anticoagulant-poisoning.aspx>



Children!

I was surprised to learn that 10,000 children are endangered by rat poisons on an annual basis. Many calls to the U.S. poison control centers are for children who are under that age of six. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/rat-poisons-endanger-10000-children/>

Check out the links on the Poison Free Malibu site to learn more about the danger poisons pose to our children and domestic pets! <https://poisonfreemalibu.org/>



Take the Pledge!

Cathy Schoonmaker will provide more information at our 1/7/18 meeting on how you can take the pledge to live poison free!

<https://www.samofund.org/poisonfreerodentcontrol/>

Artwork on this page provided by Old Agoura resident, Kathi Colman.

Break the Chain of Poison

I pledge to break the chain of poison and support local wildlife in my community. I promise to protect animals like hawks, bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions by controlling rodents without using poisons.

First Name *

ADD YOUR NAME

Last Name *

Opt in to updates from Santa Monica Mountains Fund Stewardship Project

Email *

ZIP/Postal Code *

[Not in the US?](#)

Sponsored by: Santa Monica Mountains Fund Stewardship Project



City of Agoura Hills—2014 Resolution



- ◆ In 2014, the city of Agoura Hills adopted a resolution urging residents and area business to not use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides. The city does not use rodenticides for maintenance of area parks and other facilities. <http://www.ci.agoura-hills.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=13560>

- ◆ In 2015, a letter was sent to area businesses regarding the harmful effects of rodenticides
- ◆ Other cities that have resolutions are Calabasas, Malibu, and Hidden Hills

Please join our team to help keep our city in its effort to curb the use of poisonous bait boxes!

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE SALE, PURCHASE AND USE OF ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES IN THE CITY OF AGOURA HILLS

WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides are poisonous bait products, available to the public, used to combat the infestation of rodents in business and residential properties.; and

WHEREAS, anticoagulant rodenticides are used as bait, which the rodents ingest, causing lethal internal hemorrhaging; and

WHEREAS, pets and wildlife may also become sick or die from ingesting rodenticides directly, or due to secondary exposure after consuming the dead or dying rodents; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, neighboring communities, such as the cities of Calabasas and Malibu, have adopted similar resolutions opposing the sale, purchase and use of anticoagulant rodenticides in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Agoura Hills hereby urges businesses in Agoura Hills to no longer use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides, urges all property owners to cease purchasing or using anticoagulant rodenticides on their properties in Agoura Hills, and commits the City of Agoura Hills to not use anticoagulant rodenticides, where feasible, as part of its maintenance program for City-owned parks and facilities.

The City Clerk shall certify the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 12th day of February 2014, by the following vote to wit:

Got ideas?

I'd love to hear about them! Please send me a message via <https://www.coexistwithwildlife.com/>

We can work together at creating an environment where we can peacefully coexist with urban wildlife!

Carolyn Trocino, Director of Urban Wildlife Education and Communication, Old Agoura Homeowners

