

# The Critter Chronicle

Winter, 2019

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

## WE SHARE OUR HOME WITH MOUNTAIN LIONS

Mountain lions are active throughout the night **from dusk to dawn**. It is essential to **keep dogs safe** by monitoring them when outside. Keep **domestic animals** such as **miniature horses, goats, sheep, llamas, pigs, and other small animals in secure enclosures from dusk to dawn, and during low light conditions (i.e., fog and rain)**. Mountain lions are known as “ghost cats.” Just because you don’t see them does not mean they are not in the environment. **Make your home unattractive** to wildlife, and **do not feed wild animals**, including deer. Seal up hiding places underneath your home and trim shrubs 1-3 feet above the ground to reduce the amount of cover where predators can hide unnoticed. Keep garbage can lids closed and do not overfill. **It is important to be vigilant while outdoors:** supervise small children and pets, and keep within arms reach. The **Mountain Lion Foundation website** offers a wealth of information on coexisting with mountain lions, and plans for building a low-cost pen. **Mountain Lion Foundation website:** <https://www.mountainlion.org/> **Brochure:** <https://www.mountainlion.org/Publications/CaliforniaMountainLionBrochure.pdf> **Low-cost pen plans:** <https://mountainlion.org/Upload/LowCostPenPlans.pdf>



## PROTECT YOUR CHICKENS



Coyotes are present **during the day and evening hours**. Chickens require protective and secure shelters **at all times**. Unprotected chickens are vulnerable to attacks by hawks, coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons. Raccoons are very clever at opening enclosures. The consequence of not protecting chickens is **repeated visits from our wild friends**. The increased presence **impacts your neighbors and could cause problems**. Please keep your chickens protected, your neighbors safe, and set urban wildlife up for success! To learn more about living with coyotes, visit the **Project Coyote website:** <http://www.projectcoyote.org/resources/>. To learn more about urban wildlife, visit the “**Nature Neighbor Project**” site: <https://www.nps.gov/samo/learn/management/nature-neighbor-project.htm>

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### California Wildlife Center

We are fortunate to have the California Wildlife Center so close to Agoura Hills. If you find a wild animal that needs help, call the center at **(310) 458-WILD (9453)** before bringing the animal to the center. <https://cawildlife.org/>



# Poison Free Agoura

[PoisonFreeAgoura.com](http://PoisonFreeAgoura.com)/[PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com](mailto:PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com)

## Have you seen this bobcat?

The last sighting of the bobcat was in the vicinity of **Foothill Dr. and Toth Place in Old Agoura**. The bobcat has mange, a condition caused by mites, and more likely seen after a bobcat has ingested rat poison. We've assembled a team focused on finding and treating the bobcat. If you have information on this bobcat, please contact Poison Free Agoura at [PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com](mailto:PoisonFreeAgouraToday@gmail.com)

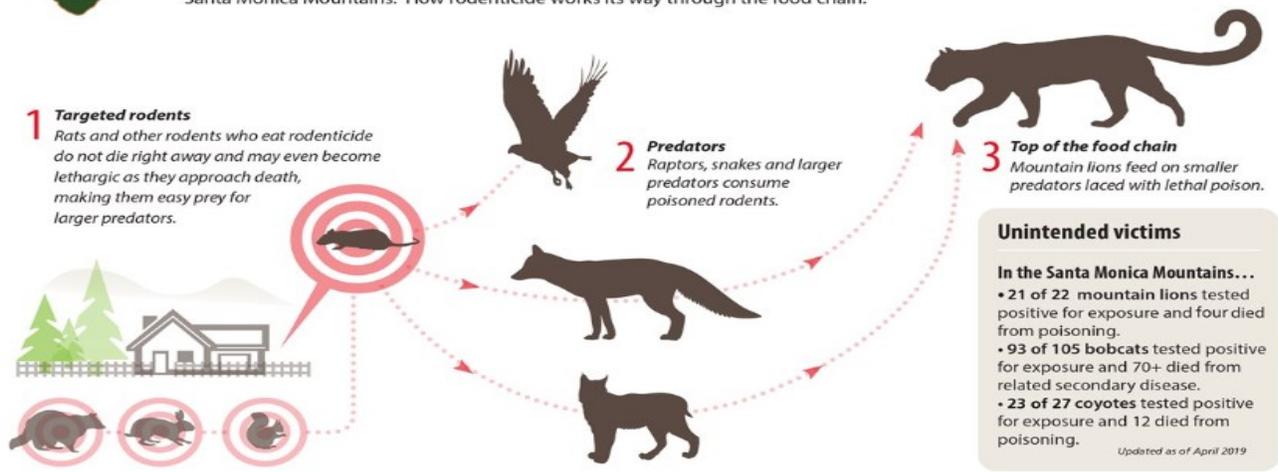
There are two 2018 studies that researchers at UCLA and NPS conducted that show rodenticides significantly alter the immune response in bobcats. The poison changes their gene expression (skin and immune system). Source: <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/household-rat-poison-changes-in-la-bobcats-immune-system>

Keep up the education effort in your Agoura Hills neighborhood regarding the consequences associated with using rat poisons.



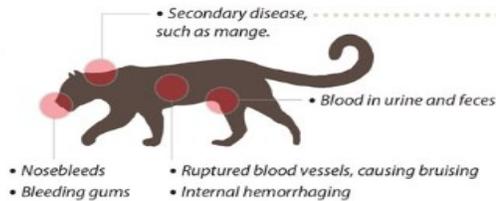
## Lethal Dose: Rat Poison & Local Wildlife

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:**



### 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



SOURCES: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area research, L.E.K. Serieys, UrbanCarnivores.com

CREDIT: National Park Service <http://1.usa.gov/1SuhsXv>