

PLEASE DO NOT USE RODENT POISON

Dear Neighbor,

I wanted to let you know that **there are Barn Owls nesting in this neighborhood** at a number of residences who have put up Owl Boxes.

Barn owls are voracious predators: a single barn owl eats four small rodents a night (e.g. rats, mice, gophers, voles), and a breeding pair and their nestlings will consume more than 3,000 rodents in a single breeding cycle. This makes them ideal for natural rodent control. If you do not use rat poison, thank you! Barn owls need a one-mile poison-free radius in order to avoid secondary poisoning. If you are using rat poison, we ask you kindly to stop and to switch to alternative methods of rodent control.

Every day wildlife and pets are in danger of being poisoned when homeowners, businesses or exterminators choose to use anti-coagulant rodenticides, also known as rat poisons, to control rodents. Poisoned rodents usually take several days to die (up to a week) and during this time, while weak and disoriented, are very easy prey to wildlife and domestic animals who frequently fall victim to secondary rodenticide poisoning.

At risk are: **Owls, Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, Bobcats, Coyotes, Mountain Lions, Foxes, Herons and Egrets** that rely on rodents for food. **Pet dogs and cats** as well as scavengers like **raccoons, skunks** and **opossums** are also at risk should they prey on a poisoned rodent or the body of an animal that has ingested one. In this way, the poison is passed up the food chain.

If you would like information on non-toxic alternatives, please visit www.PoisonFreeConejoValley.com .

Thank you so much for your cooperation, together we can create a biologically-friendly neighborhood where wildlife and domestic animals are safe.

Sincerely,
