

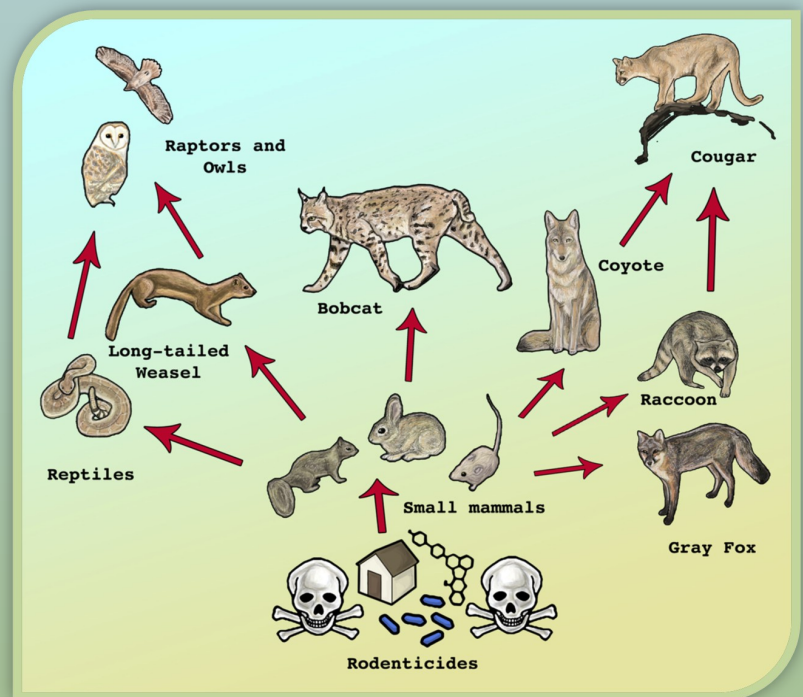


Pesticide Control Office

Rodenticides: What You Should Know

Rodenticides are pesticides that kill rodents. Rodents include ground squirrels, rock squirrels, chipmunks, muskrats, beavers, prairie dogs, gophers, packrats, roof rats and a variety of different mice. Although rodents play important roles in nature, they may sometimes require control.

The use of rodenticides is one control method. Rodenticides are usually formulated as baits, which are designed to attract animals. These baits may be attractive to children and pets, so they should never be used or stored within their reach. Predators of rodents may also be at risk for poisoning if they feed on a rodent that has consumed a rodenticide. This is known as **secondary poisoning**. Therefore, it is especially important that all pesticides, to include rodenticide baits, are used correctly and according to the product's label instructions.



Secondary poisoning illustration
(courtesy of Laurel Klein Serieys, UrbanCarnivores.com)

The Pesticide Control Office recommends the use of **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** for control of rodents. **IPM** is a philosophy that uses all possible control methods in a logical combination to minimize risk of pesticide exposure, safeguard the environment, and maximize the effectiveness. An **IPM** program focuses first on environmental management to reduce pest populations by eradicating their harborage, food, and water sources. Sealing entry points to restrict pest entry is one way to eliminate their access to harborage, food, and water sources. Under an effective **IPM** program, the use of pesticides is minimized.

For more information regarding **IPM** or pesticides, please visit us on the web at www.GRICDEQ.org or contact the **Pesticide Control Office** at (520)562-2234