

R.A.T.S.



ACTIVIST TOOLKIT



**RAPTORS
ARE THE
SOLUTION**

raptorsarethesolution.org



RATS ACTIVIST TOOLKIT: INTRO

RAPTORS ARE THE SOLUTION (RATS) educates people about the ecological role of birds of prey in urban and wild areas and about the danger they face from the widespread use of rat poison. RATS is a fiscally-sponsored project of [Earth Island Institute](https://earthislandinstitute.org/), rated a Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator. RATS is an environmental conservation organization that raises its own funds through grants and donations. RATS partners with other nonprofits, agencies, scientists, cities, and others to work toward eliminating toxic rodenticides from the food web. RATS was founded in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2011 after Cooper's hawks began falling dead on the streets from eating poisoned rats. Currently, there are 7 different RATS chapters working toward the ban of rodenticides in their local markets.

Anticoagulant and other rat poison products designed to kill rodents are also killing birds of prey, pet dogs and cats, and many species of wildlife, including several endangered species. These products are also poisoning children, even when the products are used in accordance with the directions on the packages. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), between 1999 and 2003, 25,549 children under the age of six had poisoning symptoms after exposure to rodenticides. Seventy-two percent had been exposed to a second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide, brodifacoum.

This kit was created by local RATS chapters to help you become an effective advocate to reduce rat poison use in your community to prevent harm to children, pets, and wildlife. Before taking any action, please look over [our website](#) and familiarize yourself with the [different types of rat poison](#).

Please choose any tools that you have time to deploy in your local city or town and let us know if you make progress. We also welcome feedback. You can sign up to receive news alerts, send updates or e-mail questions to us at raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com.

If you have ideas for new flyers and materials, we welcome them, but please do not create any new materials without consulting with us first. The name Raptors Are The Solution is trademarked, as is our logo, and we must be careful and consistent about how we use both. Raptors Are The Solution must also review any new materials that are created before they can be used. Thank you for your understanding.

We may add new tools to the kit over time, so be sure to check back for more.



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Public Outreach Tips for Activists

What: An article that you can submit to newsletters or blogs to raise awareness among their readers that wildlife are being poisoned by anticoagulant rodenticides. Don't forget to localize this with your contact information and any recent incidents of wildlife being poisoned by ARs (summarized in a few sentences).

Who: Local wildlife and eco-focused organizations in your city.

How: Build a list of organizations and their e-mail addresses. Larger organizations tend to have a communications person, but you can send it to directors at smaller organizations. Write an e-mail introduction that mentions that you live in the area and recently became aware of this problem of bait box poisons killing non-target wildlife and that you are trying to help spread the word. Copy the article and image below at the bottom of your e-mail message, or ask us for a Word doc version.

Activist Questions? contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com.



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE RAT POISON PLACED INSIDE BAIT BOXES IS POISONING NON-TARGET WILDLIFE?

There Are Alternative Management Techniques That Are Safer for Wildlife

Raptors Are The Solution (RATS) wants people to know that Anticoagulant Rodenticides (ARs) are a popular poison of choice by commercial pest management companies and their pervasive use is showing up in high levels of toxicity in deceased mountain lions, bobcats, all species of birds of prey, and many other animals. These findings indicate that the AR bait boxes are infiltrating the entire food web.

These unintentional poisonings decrease our ability to control rodent infestations by killing natural predators that feed on rats, mice, gophers, ground squirrels and other rodents. For instance, one family of barn owls can eat 3,000 rodents in one breeding season.

Rodenticides, including anticoagulants, also pose an unreasonable risk to children (15,000 under age 6 between 1999 and 2009) and unreasonable risk to pets and domestic animals (50,696 dog poisonings in 2014).

RATS urges people to cancel their bait box rodent management contracts and opt for non-lethal methods so we can give wildlife a fighting chance of survival. Our tips:

1. Keep trash bins tightly closed, clean up refuse, remove outdoor pet food, spilled birdseed and fallen fruit.
2. Seal cracks and crevices leading into your home. Use ¼ inch metal mesh ("hardware cloth"), not chicken wire to block entry points.
3. Trim foliage and tree limbs at least 2 feet away from the sides of the roof of your home or business.
4. Use snap traps or electronic zappers to catch any rodents remaining indoors.
5. NEVER use glue or sticky traps---they can kill songbirds and other non-target wildlife.
6. Attract barn owls to your property with a nest box (if there are no bait boxes within a 1.5 mile radius of your home).
7. If you need to hire a professional, only hire exterminators who are trained in integrated pest management (IPM) AND exclusion and sanitation. These techniques will permanently exclude rats by rodent-proofing your home. *(Include a link to your local RATS Preferred Pest Control Management Companies List if you have one posted on the RATS web-site).* There are more than 100 other pest control products that can be used to manage rodents, if the raptors and other wildlife are not able to keep the population under control. There is even a non-toxic rat fertility management product that can be used to decrease offspring. Please visit the RATS website for a [full list of alternatives](#) and contact *(insert name and contact information)* if you have time to help us increase awareness of this problem and create a safer habitat for local wildlife.

Talking Points about Rodenticides

These talking points are intended to be guidelines. Don't feel as if you must repeat them word for word. The main goal is to let people know:

- You are concerned about unintentional poisonings from anticoagulant (blood thinning) rat and mouse poisons (rodenticides);
- That it is crucial to stop using anticoagulant rodenticides to reduce these poisonings; and that together, our towns and cities can put an end to the senseless poisoning of wildlife, pets and people.

1) What are rat and mouse poisons?

- There are various types of rat and mouse poisons, but the most immediately hazardous are the Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides or "SGARs." These rodenticides work by disrupting the normal blood clotting or coagulation process so that animals suffer from uncontrolled bleeding or hemorrhaging. First Generation Anticoagulants also cause wildlife deaths and illnesses—it just takes them longer to build up in an animal's body. They are far from harmless.
- Using rodenticides causes unintended consequences, from the stench of rodents decomposing in walls to poisoning of non-target organisms. Primary poisoning can result from wild birds, pets, or even children eating baited rodenticides directly, while secondary poisoning of birds and mammals (including dogs and cats) can result from the ingestion of poisoned rodents.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency determined that Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides are so harmful they pulled these products from consumer shelves in 2014.

2) Rodenticides poison children

- Between 1999 and 2009, the American Association of Poison Control Centers received reports of an average of 17,000 human exposures to rodenticide each year, with 85% of these exposures (i.e., approximately 15,000 per year) occurring to children less than 6 years of age.

3) Rodenticides poison pets

- Between 1999 and 2009, rodenticides caused about 160 serious domestic animal incidents each year, which the U.S. EPA believes is a significant underestimate. More than 100 pets needlessly die each year due to rodenticide exposure.

4) Rodenticides poison wildlife

- Rodenticides pose an unreasonable risk to wildlife. The U.S. EPA documents anticoagulant residues in 27 avian species and 17 mammalian species. Poisonings and deaths in California have been documented in over 25 different species such as eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, bobcats, mountain lions, and even the imperiled San Joaquin kit fox and northern spotted owl. The problem is so severe that over 90% of mountain lions and 70% of Northern Spotted Owls tested in California had been exposed to anticoagulant rat poisons.
- For example, an owl can eat several mice in just one night. But when we poison these animals—by poisoning their prey—we are destroying our best natural solution to rodent control.

5) There are safer, more effective alternatives to rat and mouse poisons

- Integrated pest management strategies prevent infestations by sealing buildings and eliminating open food and water sources. Additionally, lethal rodent control strategies that involve snap traps, electric traps, and other non-toxic methods can be implemented although all of these must only be used in areas where children, pets, and wildlife cannot access them.

More information on effective and affordable alternatives can be found at <https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org/instead-of-poison-print-friendly/>.



Tips For Building A Local Preferred Pest Control Company List

What: Scripts for researching and tips for building a “Preferred Pest Control Companies” list for your city. Here is an example of the [list](#) for the San Francisco Bay-area.

Why: When convincing homeowners and facility managers to switch from anticoagulants to a more wildlife-safe alternative for managing rodents, it helps to suggest other approaches. The local list of wildlife-friendly “Preferred Pest Control Companies” is one tool we use, in conjunction with the “[Preferred Pest Control Products](#)” list and education about [Integrated Pest Management](#) (IPM) that emphasizes sanitation and exclusion.

Who: We are looking for Pest Control Companies that are trained in sanitation and exclusion and only use poison as a last resort strategy. Sanitation and exclusion involve permanently excluding rats by identifying the source of any rodent problem (such as pet food or garbage left un-sealed and outdoors) and then rodent-proofing homes or buildings.

How: Call pest management companies, using the suggested script as a guide and ask the questions listed below to determine if you can add them to your city’s wildlife-friendly Preferred Pest Control Companies list. You can also try to use the “chat” feature on websites, or send e-mail messages, but our experience is that they send you to someone else who never answers your questions or inquiries.

Note: If your area has conducted a rat poison bait box inventory survey, be sure to get the list of pest control companies that are re-filling bait boxes and do not add them to your list. Also, it is important to note that most pest control companies that have the words “eco, green or earth” in the name, often do not actually practice Integrated Pest Management/ sanitation and exclusion and instead focus on using anticoagulants.

Once your list is complete, be sure to send your city’s list of Preferred Pest Control Companies List to RATS at raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com.

Activist Questions? Contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com

Suggested script for contacting pest control companies:

Hello. I volunteer for a wildlife conservation organization and we are trying to find (*insert city name*)-area pest control companies, that do not use anticoagulant rodenticides, which are inadvertently poisoning non-target wildlife (like owls, song birds, black bear and mountain lions to name a few) to recommend to neighbors and facilities managers. We are trying to determine if your company might be a good recommendation for our Preferred Pest Control Company list that we plan to post on our website.

Qualifying pest control companies:

- 1) do not use the following poison baits: Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Difenacoum, Difethialone (all of these are second generation anticoagulant rodenticides) or Diphacinone or Chlorophacinone (first generation anticoagulants).
- 2) are trained in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and focused on sanitation and exclusion.
- 3) offer exclusion services to rodent-proof buildings.

Pest Control Industry False Claims and Talking Points to Refute Them

“The poisons we use are safe.”

A: There is no such thing as a safe rat poison. Current bait box poisons are infiltrating the entire food web and not only killing rats. Children under age 6 and domestic pets are also being poisoned.

“We know how to safely use the poisons and the general public does not.”

A: No matter who uses it, all types of rat poisons are unsafe.

“There are poisons that only work at night.”

A: Raptors and many predators also hunt at night.

“Rats go someplace else to die after they eat the poison.”

A: Non-target wildlife predators are attracted to weakened prey. It takes up to 10 days for poisoned rats to die. Sickened prey are easier for any wildlife to catch and consume.

“If we can’t use these products, there is going to be a public health crisis.”

A: There are more than 100 other poisons people and companies can use that are not lethal to nontarget wildlife. We are only asking people and companies to stop using anticoagulants.

“Rats consume the poison inside the box and therefore it cannot poison pets or children.”

A: This is not true. Rat bait is frequently found outside the boxes; rats can carry it out of the box where other animals and children can pick it up. Other animals—including dogs, skunks, and opossums—frequently get into the bait boxes and sometimes destroy them. Some animals like skunks and opossums have even been found stuck in bait boxes.

“Rats die inside the boxes.”

A: Completely false. Once a poisoned rat leaves the box, it can become food for raptors and other animals.



Tips for Organizing Bait Box Inventory Surveys

What: A community-driven bait box inventory survey to determine how much poison exists in urban and suburban wildlife habitats.

Why: There are likely thousands of rat poison bait boxes being used throughout your city. These rat poison bait boxes primarily house Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides, which are inadvertently poisoning non-target wildlife (like owls, song birds, black bear and mountain lions to name a few).

Raptors Are The Solution plans to use this bait station inventory data to contact business / organization owners and educate them on the toxic effects the rat poison has on children, pets and wildlife. Furthermore, we will educate current users of the bait box poisons about non-toxic alternatives (i.e. using sanitation and exclusion strategies, ContraPest, mechanical traps, Raticator and more that are listed on the Raptors Are The Solution website) that can be used to safely manage rodent populations.

Who: Raptors Are The Solution volunteers help collect data and conduct outreach to businesses and facilities that are using the rat poison bait boxes containing SGARs.

How: Recruit volunteers (*see flyer, page 15*), offer a pre-survey training (on zoom if needed...please e-mail RATS to request training assistance) and organize survey dates by neighborhood. Meet volunteers in groups no larger than 5 during the Covid-19 pandemic and walk with them in the beginning to make sure they understand how to conduct the survey. Please stay on public property such as sidewalks and roadways and do not trespass on private property. Give each volunteer:

- 📎 A copy of the below listed “Tip Sheet” and table to fill out.
- 📎 5 printed copies of the RATS [brochures](#), in case people ask questions.
- 📎 5 printed copies of a [general flyer](#) that they can hang on telephone polls.

See the business/organization outreach page volunteers (*see page 11*) for guidance on how to use your bait box inventory data to talk with bait box owners about switching to non-lethal approaches for rodent management.

Note: Once your data is collected, please send completed survey to raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we recommend that volunteers gather in groups no larger than 5 people and that each person has a partner, preferably one from their own household, when conducting inventory. Please do not do anything you are uncomfortable with and do not trespass onto private property. If people are curious about what you are doing, feel free to answer their questions as best as possible and offer them a flyer, which you should print before heading out.

- 1) Most rat poison bait boxes are black plastic rectangles with two round openings. Some are gray metal and new ones can be camouflaged as gray, plastic fake rocks. A few examples:



By law, the boxes should be placed within 50 feet of a structure. They typically are placed against a wall of a building foundation and/or near dumpsters.



- 2) In the spring of 2015, the EPA ruled that second generation anticoagulants could no longer be sold in retail stores because of the toxic danger to children, pets and wildlife. However, commercial pest control companies are still allowed to use them! Secondary poisoning of children, pets and wildlife remain a problem. A poisoned rodent is a toxic time bomb for any predator that eats it.

There are multiple brand names for these products, but the active ingredients to be concerned about include:

Brodifacoum
Bromadiolone
Difenacoum
Difethialone

First generation anticoagulants include **Diphacinone** and **Chlorophacinone** (multiple brand names).

Other poisons: Bromethalin – A nerve toxin; no known antidote; has killed pets and cholecalciferol (a Vitamin D3 overdose; disintegrates animals' bones—has killed non-target species).



DATA TO COLLECT DURING A RAT BAIT STATION INVENTORY SURVEY

Neighborhood (focus on large facilities, parks or mixed-use business districts), City & State Surveyed:

Name of Volunteer:

NAME OF CO. / BUILDING	ADDRESS	# OF BAIT STATIONS	EXTERMINATOR SERVICING THE BAIT BOX	TOXINS LISTED ON LABEL* (if the label can be safely read)

*Please make a note if you do not see a label on the bait station box so that we can report it to the City, County, or local Ag Commission.

Potential Statements from Businesses / Questions & Answers

Q: The poisons we use are safe.

A: There is no such thing as a safe rat poison. Anticoagulants are infiltrating the entire food web and killing more than rats. Children under age 6 and domestic pets are also being poisoned.

Q: We know how to safely use the poisons and the general public does not.

A: No matter who uses it, all types of rat poisons are unsafe. It is the chemical itself that poses the danger, not who uses it.

Q: Rats go someplace else to die after they eat the poison.

A: Non-target wildlife predators are attracted to weakened prey. It takes up to 10 days for poisoned rats to die, a lot of time to have them stumbling around sick. Studies show that sickened prey are easier for wildlife to catch and consume.

Q: If we can't use these products, isn't there going to be a public health crisis?

A: There are more than 100 other products people and companies can use that are not lethal to nontarget wildlife. We are asking people and companies to stop using anticoagulants because they bioaccumulate.

Q: How many pets and children are poisoned?

A: The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports that approximately 50,000 dogs and 15,000 children under age 6 are poisoned by rodenticides each year.



Tips to Educate and Ask People to Make the Swap

What: E-mail letter / in-person outreach campaign to send facilities managers and business owners that have Anticoagulant Rodenticide (AR) bait boxes placed outside their buildings.

Why: RATS wants to educate people about the dangers of rat poison in the food web, the ecological role of birds of prey, and work to eliminate toxic rodenticides to prevent further poisonings of wildlife, children, and pets. We envision a healthy, functioning food web in which every organism remains poison free. Rat poisons undermine a critical piece of this system: the predator/prey relationship.

We hope our information will help inform people who are making decisions about pest control and persuade them to choose poison-free methods instead.

Who: Facilities managers and business owners responsible for making pest control decisions for organizations or businesses that have been identified (from a bait box inventory survey) as having AR bait boxes outside their businesses.

How: You can either send an e-mail, or call to schedule an in-person discussion with your target pest management decision maker.

Below is an example e-mail that the Santa Cruz RATS chapter used to successfully convince businesses to swap their bait boxes for other methods of rodent control. Try and find the general manager or business owner's names for local businesses. Large campuses like hospitals or universities should have a facilities manager that you can contact.

Following are some talking points and suggested materials to take to your meeting.

Activist Questions? Contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com

E-mail to Ask Businesses to Swap SGAR Bait Boxes Tip Sheet

Example E-mail Message

Dear Mr. X,

I am writing with regard to *(insert specific information, i.e. the 50-plus boxes of toxic rat bait that line the perimeter of [name of business])*. These rat bait boxes contain an anticoagulant rodenticide called *(insert specific poison, this information should have been collected in the bait box inventory survey)*—one of the most dangerous rat poisons on the market.

Difethialone [name the specific poison you have seen] and some other anticoagulants were banned by the EPA for consumer use in 2015 but are still widely used by professional pest control operators, despite the danger to non-target species. Rodents that consume poisoned bait become easy prey for the hawks, owls, bobcats, coyotes, and foxes that rely on rodents for food. You may or may not be aware that some or all of the above mentioned species call our urban landscape home.

(insert local context, if you have any...i.e. XX's campus borders some of the richest wildlife habitat in our county: XX, directly across the street, and XX, a block away, are both home to many species of beneficial predators and their young.) All are at risk of being poisoned by your use of *(insert poison)*.

I volunteer for Raptors Are The Solution, a nonprofit conservation organization, and we have begun a campaign to educate local businesses about the deadly consequences of rodenticides and help them switch to non-toxic methods. Our campaign has been endorsed by *(insert endorsements if you have any. If you do not, take this section out)*. i.e. the County of XX, XX County Animal Shelter, *[other supportive groups.]*

In addition *(List any local poisonings, or rodenticide-related news if applicable. A word of caution: we need to be careful about wording and only state that wildlife were poisoned by ARs if the body has been tested by a professional lab or state agency. If you are unsure about the language to use, please email us raptorsarethesolution.org and we will help you craft your messaging.*

Best regards,
(insert name)



In-Person Meeting to Ask Businesses to Swap AR Bait Boxes

Suggested Supporting Materials to Print and Take to an In-Person Meeting

- 📎 [Preferred Pest Control Products](#)
- 📎 [Success Stories](#)
- 📎 [RATS Brochure](#)
- 📎 [OWL-Wise Leader Display](#) Examples and [OWL Wise Leader Program](#) Information
- 📎 Bait Box Scam Diagram (see page 16)

Sample Talking Points

- 📎 I live in *(insert neighborhood/city)* and I *(insert some personalized connection point if applicable, i.e. shop at your store regularly, visit my doctor's office in this building, etc.)*.
- 📎 I know that *(insert organization/company name)* wants to be a good corporate citizen so I am here to tell you about something you might not know about.
- 📎 I volunteer for Raptors Are The Solution. We are a conservation organization that educates people about the dangers of rat poison in the food web, the ecological role of birds of prey, and works to eliminate toxic rodenticides to prevent further poisonings of wildlife, children, and pets.
- 📎 The *(insert #)* of rat bait box stations you have placed around your building contain a deadly type of poison called anticoagulant rodenticides (otherwise known as ARs). Rodents that consume the bait are poisoned with an anticoagulant that stays in their bodies until they die up to 10 days after poison consumption. The poison weakens their bodies and as they wander around alleyways and greenbelts in a daze, they become easy prey for predators that rely on rodents for food. The poisoned rat can be consumed by an unknowing predator, which then becomes poisoned itself. Birds of prey accumulate and process the poisons very quickly and are dying with high levels of these poisons in their bodies. Large mammals, like coyote and mountain lions, are also being poisoned.
- 📎 We understand that everyone wants to eliminate rodent damage and infestations, but there are better, wild-life-friendly ways to achieve that goal. We hope that you will reconsider using ARs outside your property and instead focus on improving sanitation and excluding and deterring rats using non-lethal products. See our website for a list of RATS recommended products that you can try instead.
- 📎 If you decide to swap out your AR bait boxes for something else, we can give you an OWL-wise sticker to place on the door, include your company name on our website and send a press release or news item touting your stewardship to your neighborhood news blog.



Tips for Giving Presentations

What: A PowerPoint presentation to help educate the public about the problem of secondary poisoning of wildlife from anticoagulants. (Contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com and we'll send you a power point via WeTransfer—it's a large file.)

Why: Raptors Are The Solution ("RATS") educates people about the dangers of rat poison in the food web. RATS informs people about the ecological role of birds of prey, and works to eliminate toxic rodenticides to prevent further poisonings of wildlife, children, and pets. We envision a healthy, functioning food web in which every organism remains poison free. Rat poisons undermine a critical piece of this system: the predator/prey relationship.

Who: Eco-focused organizations are good targets for awareness-building outreach; a few examples: Audubon and other birding societies, wildlife groups, toxin-free living organizations, university science clubs (also a great source for volunteers), neighborhood business associations, garden clubs, Rotary, Kiwanis, and health boards.

How: Once you have localized/customized the power point presentation and practiced your talking points, begin reaching out to organizations to see if they will allow you to give a brief presentation to their members. Be sure to share the RATS website address, [facebook page](#) and your e-mail address so that people can reach out to volunteer or get more information.

If you are giving your presentation virtually over zoom, consider using our RATS virtual background screen (contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com) and we'll send via WeTransfer.

Activist Questions? Contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com



Tips for Building A Network

What: Build a local/regional network. Start by creating a Google (or other) Group of all your contacts. The list might be short at first, but it will grow over time, with consistent attention.

Why: Use this contact list whenever you have news to share or actions to request. Examples might be RATS activities, rodent management tips, wildlife poisonings that you become aware of by using a Google Alert function for phrases like “rat poison,” or notice of your availability to give presentations on toxic rodenticide poisonings and the ecological role birds of prey play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Progress made on building a local/regional network is helpful for awareness building and launching a policy change campaign

Who: You can grow your local/regional network by sending an introductory e-mail (see example below) to organizations like Audubon, State Fish & Wildlife, boards of health, conservation commissions, wildlife rehabilitators, wildlife photographers, university science/ecology professors.

How: Frequent communications are a great way to get RATS and its mission on the radar of people and organizations who can help in the effort to rid wildlife habitats from toxic rodenticide poisonings. You don’t want to over-communicate, rather regularly communicate. Use your e-mail list to send regular informational tidbits and send any local information to RATS at the e-mail below so we can help broaden your reach.

Activist Questions? Contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com

Local / Regional Network E-mail Introduction Tip Sheet

Example:

Hello *(insert name)*.

I volunteer for [Raptors Are The Solution](#) (RATS), a Project of Earth Island Institute, that educates people about the dangers of rat poison in the food web. We educate people about the ecological role of birds of prey, and work to eliminate toxic rodenticides to prevent further poisonings of wildlife, children, and pets. We envision a healthy, functioning food web in which every organism remains poison free. Rat poisons undermine a critical piece of this system: the predator/prey relationship.

I am writing because we are working to raise awareness about the problem of rat poison impacting non-target wildlife in *(insert city or town)* and we hope to convince people to swap out their rat poison bait boxes for wildlife-friendly approaches for rat control.

The problem of rodenticide poisoning is understudied worldwide, but California has led the charge. For over a decade, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has been tracking the impacts of the anticoagulant rodenticides on non-target wildlife and found harm to a wide array of species. A California Department of Pesticide Regulation analysis found second generation ARs (SGARs) in more than 90 percent of tested mountain lions, 88 percent of bobcats and 85 percent of protected Pacific Fishers, even after the department took steps in 2014 to restrict consumer access.

In Maryland, a [recent Tufts University study](#) found SGAR poisoning in 100 percent of Red-Tailed Hawk bodies.

We are looking for ways to share our news and increase awareness of the problem so that people can make more informed decisions about the poisons in their environments. Can I add you to our e-mail list to receive RATS communications?

(Personalize this paragraph with any local efforts that are happening, i.e. bait box inventory survey, neighborhood festival informational booths, etc.).

In addition, RATS is always looking for ways to collaborate with other like-minded organizations, so please keep us in mind for your programming and add me to your e-mail list.



Tips for Recruiting Volunteers

What: Volunteer recruitment. Below is a flyer you can send to various organizations to recruit volunteers to help make your City a safer place for wildlife. You can also copy and paste the content for e-mail messages.

Why: We can reach our goal faster of ridding our cities and towns of anticoagulant rodenticides the more volunteers and partnerships we develop.

Who: Good volunteer targets are: college biology and environmental study students, retirees, members of birding organizations, stay-at-home parents, wildlife lovers.

How: If you are starting with a neighborhood bait box inventory survey and need to recruit volunteers, consider reaching out to neighborhood blogs with your plea, one neighborhood at a time, so that you can more easily manage the activities of the survey.

Other places to try and reach volunteers:

- ✓ wildlife rehab centers, wildlife-focused and eco-minded organizations usually have blogs
- ✓ university science departments
- ✓ birding facebook pages

Activist Questions? Contact raptorsarethesolution@gmail.com

URGENT CALL FOR ACTIVIST-VOLUNTEERS



Rat Poison Bait Box

← HAVE YOU SEEN ONE OF THESE?

Commercial rat exterminators contract with unknowing customers to refill these bait boxes with **toxic chemicals** that are poisoning **pets** and **children** and **killing non-target wildlife**, including **raptors**, **invertebrates**, **mammals**, **reptiles** and **songbirds**.

Tens of thousands of bait boxes containing Anticoagulant Rodenticides (ARs) may be placed throughout *(insert City name)*.

Pets and local wildlife are poisoned and dying every day and they need our help to convince people to stop poisoning their food and start using nontoxic rodent management methods instead.



Red-tailed Hawk with rat, photo credit Jeff Graham

Newly hatched, the (insert name) Chapter of RAPTORS ARE THE SOLUTION (RATS) needs help. Can you help with any of the socially distanced initiatives listed below?

- Conducting mixed-use neighborhood inventories of commercially serviced poison bait boxes.
- Launching business and organization outreach to educate them on the unintended harm the poison is causing and asking them to switch to non-toxic methods for rodent management.
- Building a list of wildlife-safe exterminator companies to promote as alternatives.
- Researching and collecting data to work towards a ban on ARs.





Bait Box Scam Cycle

