Got Rats?

Here are some tips to prevent them without poison

- Cut branches back three feet away from the roof.
- Rip out ivy. Do not accumulate trash.
- Elevate your chicken coop by 18 inches.
- Use wire mesh or hardware cloth under porches that extends partially into the ground.
- Provide tight-fitting covers on crawl space entrances.
- Consider using a non-toxic fertility control product like Contrapest to decrease rat numbers.
- Check garage shelves and storage sheds for evidence of rats.
- Cap plumbing vent stacks with hardware cloth.
- If you feed the birds, feed small amounts at a time and bring feeders in at night. Clean up fallen seed.

**DO NOT USE:**

- **Snap traps** in the open landscape. They can maim and harm other animals.
- **Sticky traps** or glue boards. They cause horrific suffering and other animals get caught in them, including songbirds.
- **Rodenticides:** Rat poison kills birds and wildlife, not just rats. When a hawk, owl, or bobcat eats a poisoned rat, they too, can become very ill or perish of secondary poisoning. Rat poison can also poison your dog or cat.

**O.K. TO USE:**

- **Electronic traps** (only in safe locations) like the Raticator or other rat “zapper.”
- **Cayenne pepper** sprinkled on rat tails to deter them.
- **Dry ice** in rat burrows.
- **A24 trap** by Automatic Trap.