Rat Poison: A Deadly Food Chain

Those big plastic boxes that pest-control companies place around buildings usually contain rodenticides with blood thinners known as anticoagulants that take days to do their job. Any wildlife or family pet that consumes a poisoned rodent consumes the poison, too.

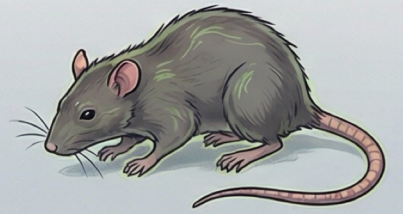


PRIMARY EXPOSURE: THE BAIT

Inside the box, a rodent eats bait blocks laced with chemicals that prevent its blood from clotting.

THE EASY MEAL

The rat becomes slow and weak, making it an easy target for its natural predators.





SECONDARY POISONING: THE PREDATOR

A raptor or mammal eats the poisoned rat, leading to internal bleeding, disease or death.



A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM

In one NJ study, rodenticide residues were found in over 80% of both great horned owls and red-tailed hawks tested.



EVEN SMALL DOSES HARM

Doses too small to kill many animals still weaken their immune systems and are linked to mange and infection.



NATURE'S PEST CONTROL

Raptors can consume large numbers of rodents in one season.



A SAFER PATH FORWARD



PREVENTION FIRST

Seal entry points, always secure garbage lids and dumpster lids, and never leave food on the ground for pets or wildlife.



GO POISON-FREE

Ask pest-control companies to rely on exclusion methods and snap traps (instead of poison) inside their boxes.

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