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## Humane Rodent Control

Controlling and deterring rodents requires a commitment if you want to see long-term effects. When managing rodents, poisons are *never* a good solution because of their potential secondary effects on children, pets and wildlife, as well as the hazards they pose in our watersheds and environment. Furthermore, the use of poison bait is another attractant for rodents. Poison is not the answer!

The key to reducing rodent populations long-term requires Integrated Pest Management (IPM) utilizing deterrents, exclusion methods and eliminating rodent attraction sources.

Below are Wild Care's recommendations for reducing or controlling rodent populations humanely and long-term.

### Integrated Pest Management:

- Eliminate food sources that attract rodents. This includes outdoor pet food, cleaning up fruit and berries dropped by trees/shrubs, eliminate waste under bird feeding stations and/or take in bird feeding stations at night. Clean up dog feces promptly. Dog poop is an attractant.
- Practice good refuse management. Keep garbage receptacles and dumpsters closed at all times. Purchase rodent proof garbage bins and dumpsters.
- Utilize rodent proof compost bins. Do not throw food waste into your backyard.
- Trim or remove foliage so they are at least 2 feet away from the side of your home or dwelling, to prevent rodents from climbing, nesting and hiding in them.
- Seal up cracks, crevices and potential entry points into your home. Use 1/3 inch metal mesh (hardware cloth), not chicken wire, to block entry points.
- Remove brush piles from near your home or dwelling.
- Seal up cracks, crevices and potential entry points in your home – with course grade steel wool (#3 or #4). Stuff wool in crevices tightly, then seal with spray foam insulation.
- \*Utilize electronic zappers or snap traps within your homes to control mice. (Never place these outside.)
- \*Humane traps can be used to capture mice and rats in your home. Release rodents outside on your property. Use exclusion techniques to prevent re-entry. *MA state regulations require that all wildlife is released back onto your property. It is illegal to relocate wildlife to a new location and often lethal for the animal.*
- Utilize rodent birth control methods below.

\* Please note, when using snap traps, electrocution traps or humane trap-and-relocation on your property during the spring and summer months, you are potentially killing/releasing a nursing mother, and leaving babies behind. I recommend utilizing these methods during the fall and winter months to avoid creating orphans. Practice indoor exclusion during spring/summer to prevent rodents from getting in.

*They will thank us simply by their presence*



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### Devices and Products for *Lethally* Controlling Mice and Rats:

- Rats: Stuff dry ice pellets into burrow entrances/exits. Cover with soil to asphyxiate rats. (Please note, Bell Laboratory produces pellets approved for rodent control. "Rat Ice" is only available for rodent use in certain states.) <https://www.belllabs.com/bell-labs/product/us/pest-control/rat-ice>
- Rats and Mice: Put instant mashed potato flakes into re-labeled empty bait boxes. Mix with sunflower seed/peanut butter. (\*Remember: Any time you put out a food source, you are attracting rodents.)
- RatX Product: Kills rats by dehydration
- A24 Good Nature Autotraps: Self-setting, self-baiting and self-clearing. For rats or mice.
- Smart Boxes by Anticimex

### Rodent Birth Control and Non-Lethal Deterrents:

- Senestech Contracept: Liquid rat birth control. Non-hormonal. Safe for pets and the environment. Effective long-term when combined with exclusion and lethal methods.
- Contraceptol: Herbal birth control for mice.
- Natural Deterrents (Please note that mothballs should not be utilized for non-intended label use as they are carcinogenic, and harmful to watersheds.)
- Ultrasonic Rodent Deterrents for rats and mice
- Nixalite – Humane Rat and Mouse Control Products
- Other options from Raptors Are the Solution

For questions, contact Stephanie Ellis, Executive Director, Wild Care, Inc.  
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