

Making better decisions for wildlife

Below are some key ways that you can control pests at home, while also supporting native birds.

Deter pest rodents from your home

- Store stock, poultry and pet food in rodent proof bins or containers
- Seal access points, like wall and roof cavities
- Tidy up wood piles, iron or rubbish in yards
- Remove fallen fruit from orchards
- Remove rat-friendly plants like palm trees
- Rodent proof chicken coops, aviaries, and compost bins with small gauge wire mesh

Support native predators like owls

Native predators are a sign of a healthy ecosystem and help keep pests under control, naturally. To encourage them on your property:

- Retain old trees (even when dead) to provide perches and nesting hollows for owls, kestrels, and other birds of prey
- Plant a diverse range of bird-friendly native plants and trees with good canopy cover
- Install nest boxes designed for native owls



For more information about making safer rodent control choices for birds, visit:

actforbirds.org/ratpoison

or scan the QR code, below:



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Save Birds. Save Life.

Level 2, Main Building, 54 Wellington Street,
Collingwood VIC 3066

(03) 9347 0757 | support@birdlife.org.au

ABN 75 149 124 774



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**Bird-friendly
Rodent Control
Make a better choice**

Visits from unwelcome pests

When pest rats or mice show up uninvited, it can be tempting to reach straight for rodent bait.

But how we manage pest rodents at home can have deadly consequences for wildlife and pets.

A lethal cocktail for wildlife and pets

Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) are highly lethal chemicals that cause internal bleeding in animals that ingest them.

Packaging for SGARs can be unclear, though they are often called 'fast acting' baits. To play it safe, always read the active ingredients before you buy.

Avoid all products containing:

- ✗ Brodifacoum
- ✗ Difenacoum
- ✗ Flocoumafen
- ✗ Bromadiolone
- ✗ Difethialone

Do not purchase SGAR poisons



Photo credits: Nankeen Kestrel by Graham Gall; Australian Raven by Sputnik Sputnik; Tawny Frogmouths by Rebecca Hodges; Powerful Owl by Dave Robson



SGARs can kill wildlife and pets

SGARs are powerful poisons, but don't kill animals immediately. They can build up in animals and the environment for a dangerously long time.

Poisoned animals become walking time bombs, and can spread SGARs around the environment and through our backyards.

How animals and pets are exposed to SGARs:

- Primary poisoning – e.g. pest rodents and non-target animals like possums eat poison directly
- Secondary poisoning – e.g. owls, quolls, or pets eat mice and possums that ate SGAR bait

Larger animals like owls, eagles, quolls, and pets rarely die after consuming a single poisoned rat. Instead, prolonged SGAR exposure can lead to severe internal bleeding and a painful death.



Safer alternatives to SGAR poisons

Always start with the classics

Classic 'snap-trap' mousetraps, live traps, and other mechanical traps remain the best and safest ways to control pest rodents in your home.

Remember to keep all traps secured away from native wildlife and curious pets (e.g. indoors).

Poison is always a last resort at home

Some poisons have no antidote. All poisons may harm pets, children, and wildlife if ingested.

Always avoid throw-away bait pellets or paste, and secure poison in tamper-proof bait stations away from wildlife, e.g. indoors, not in carports.

Always read the active ingredients of poisons.

Look for non-anticoagulant rat poisons:

Active ingredients:

Corn Gluten Meal & Sodium Chloride, Cholecalciferol

Or first-generation anticoagulants:

Active ingredients: Warfarin, Coumatetralyl

Learn more about safer options by scanning the QR or visiting:

actforbirds.org/what-to-buy-and-avoid

