

SEA TO SKY INJURED WILDLIFE

Helping wildlife in the Sea to Sky get to the designated wildlife rehabilitation centres safely and quickly.

August 10, 2020

106-2067 Lake Placid Road
Whistler, BC V8E 0B6

RMOW Legislative Services Department
4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the pets, wildlife and small children in the Whistler area, I would like to advocate for a ban on rodent poisons within the Resort Municipality of Whistler. I am a volunteer coordinator for Sea to Sky Injured Wildlife and an emergency veterinarian at Twin Trees Veterinary Clinic.

Anticoagulant rodent poisons are known to perpetuate through the food chain and frequently affect non-target animals including pets and wildlife. Rat and mouse poisons used in homes and in commercial areas are a leading cause of death in birds of prey such as eagles, owls, hawks, falcons, but many other wildlife (including snakes, skunks, weasels, foxes, coyotes and raccoons) are now being found to have anticoagulant rodenticides in their bodies. Because rodent poisons perpetuate through the food chain, there is truly no way to protect non-target wildlife from exposure to rodent poisons.

In my experience, the use of rodent poisons in the municipality of Whistler is widespread. While rodent poisons are technically regulated by laws, which require that the poisons be stored such that they cannot be accessed by pets and children, most of the pets that have been brought into the ER for rodent poison ingestion accessed the poisons where they were not properly secured in the Whistler Village (outside restaurants and businesses along the valley stroll). Some patients accessed the poisons in pet-friendly hotels and others in private residences.

The fact that pets were able to access these poisons easily suggests that small children in the Whistler Village would also be able to find and access the poisons. Rodenticides are included among the top 10

substances involved in poison exposures in children <6 years old. (Ontario Poison Centre). If a dog thinks it looks like candy, so will a toddler. In the US, the American Association of Poison Control Centers has received reports of approximately 12,000 to 15,000 rodenticide exposures in children younger than 6 years old every year. (Health Canada Website).

There are now many safer and more humane alternatives for rodent control than the use of poisons. Other municipalities in BC have paved the way in banning the use of rodenticides (Saanich and North Vancouver). Whistler is a leader in environmentalism, and so I encourage the municipality to recognize the threat that rodent poisons pose to the health of our community, to increase public knowledge on this topic, and to restrict or ban the use of rodenticides within the RMOW.

I have attached below an outline of my video presentation on the subject. The video can be accessed by clicking the following Dropbox link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/1vij9a3rpubhz38/BAN_RODENT_POISONS.mp4?dl=0

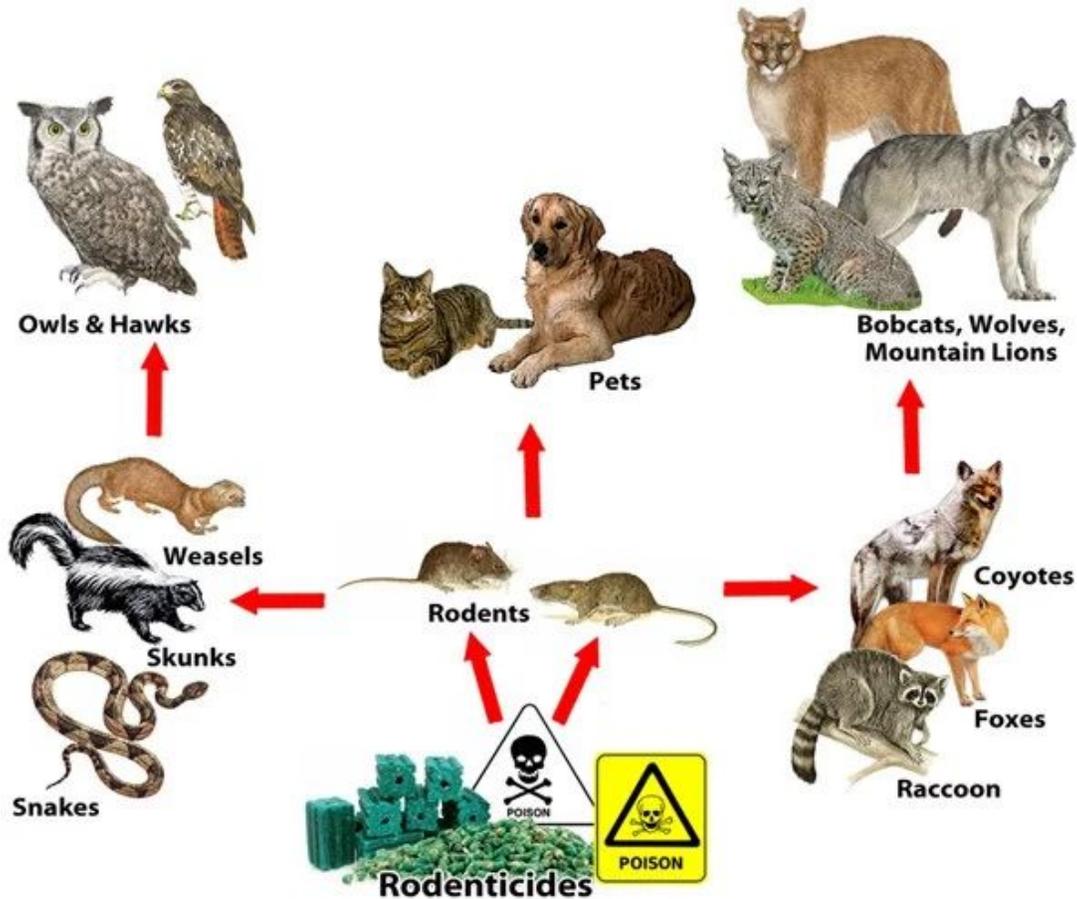
I can be reached via email at seatoskyinjuredwildlife@gmail.com. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Melinda M. Lopez DVM

RODENT POISONS DON'T JUST KILL RATS AND MICE.



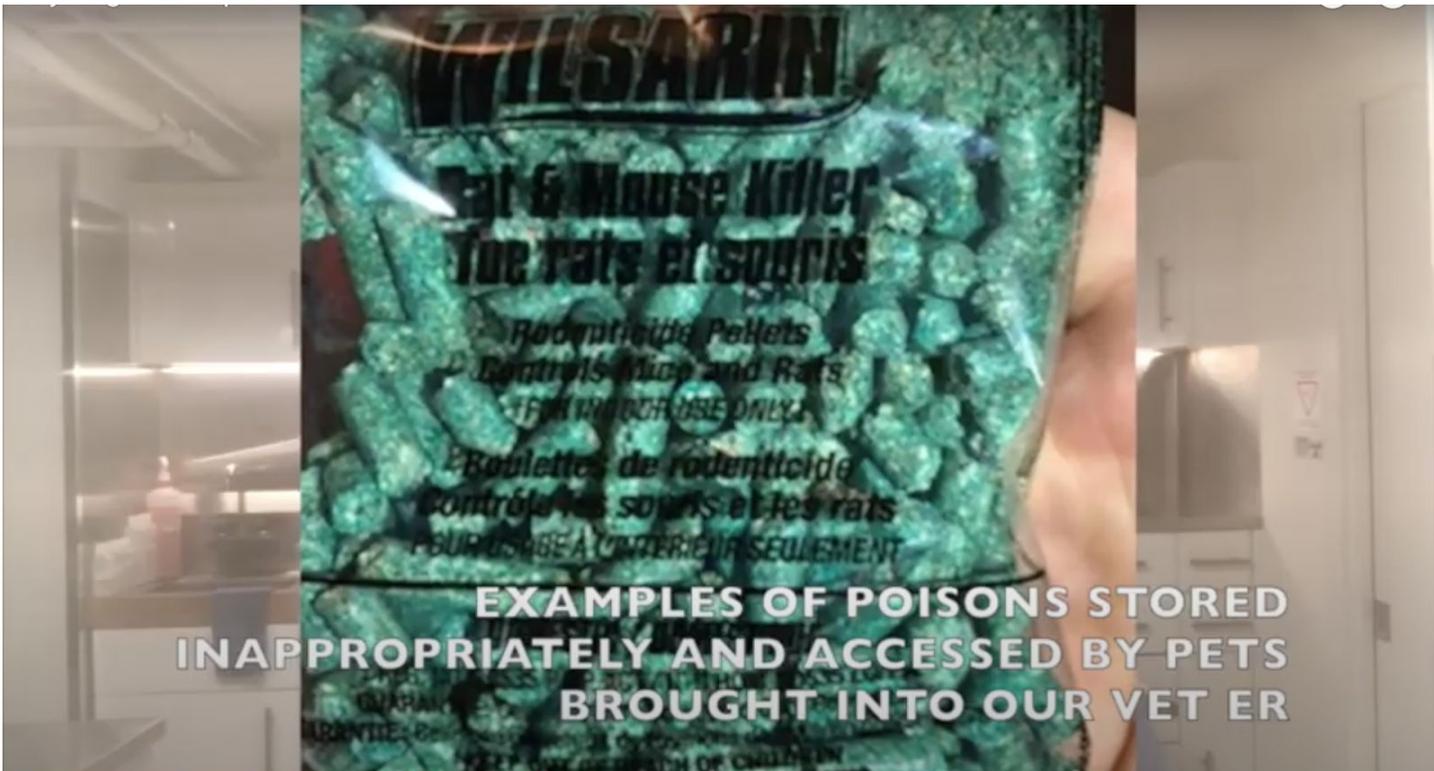
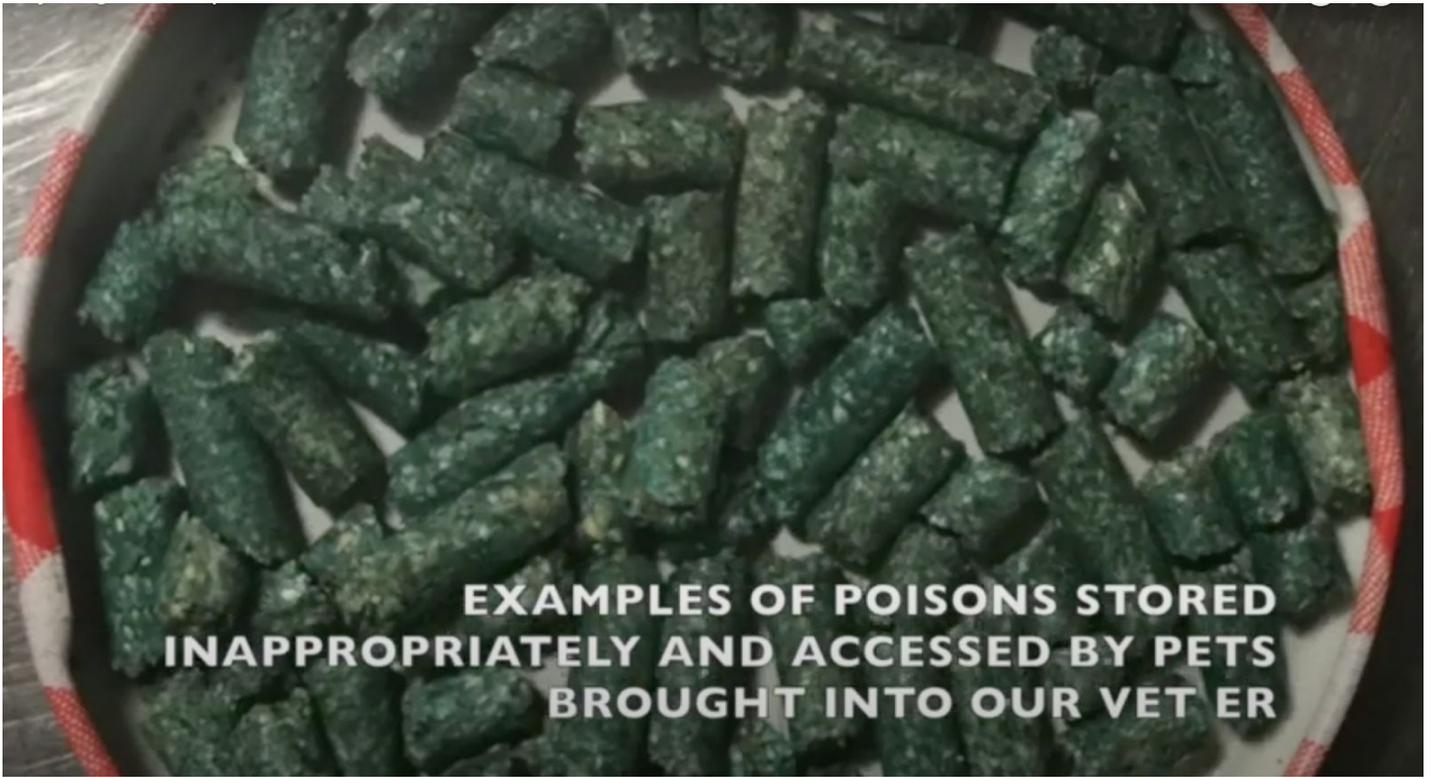
<http://www.sccf.org/news/blog/not-all-rat-poisons-are-created-equal>

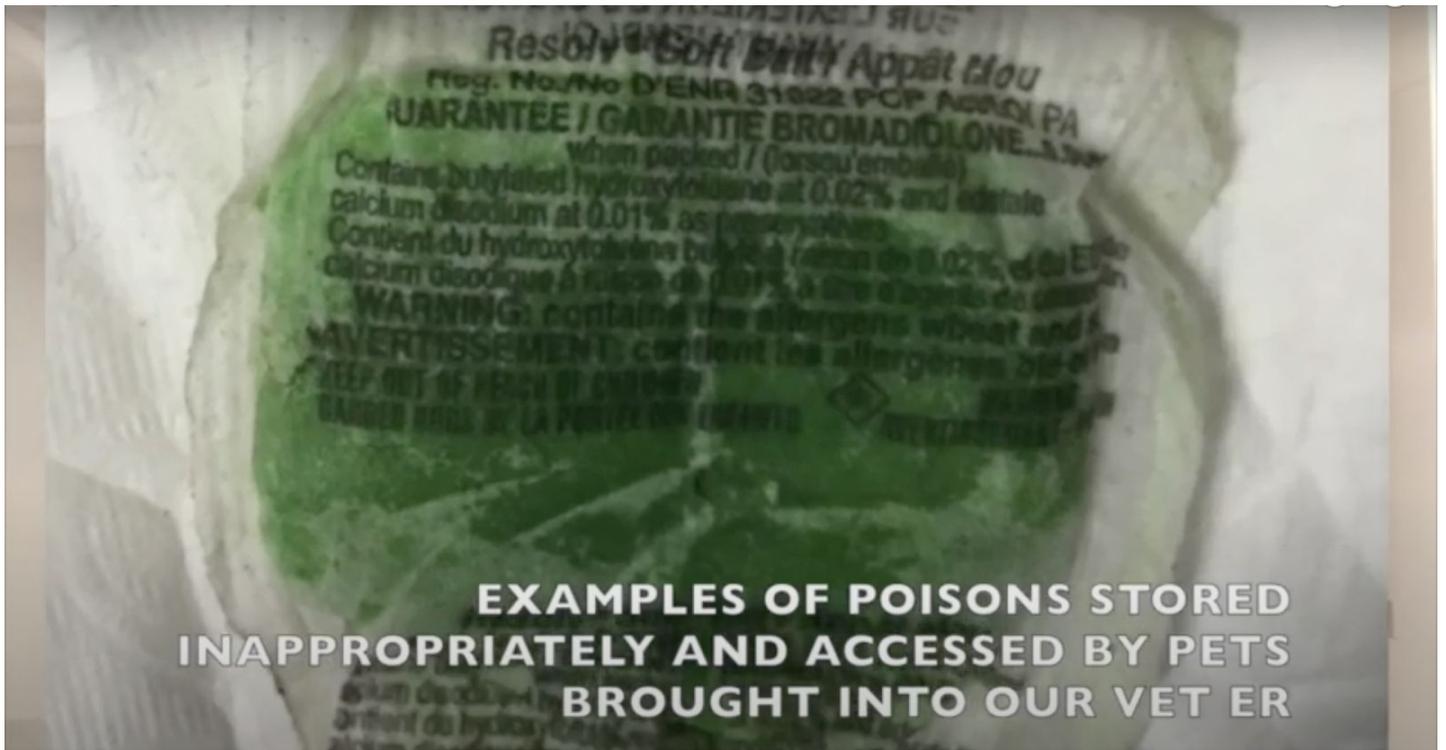
-A review: poisoning by anticoagulant rodenticides in non-target animals globally:

Worldwide use of anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs) for vertebrate pest control has frequently led to the unintentional exposures of non-target animals, especially raptors, to these poisons. Recently, more than 420 birds, including 46 bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), died because of a rat-eradication program on an Alaskan island [2]. Reporting that more than 130 dead raptors found in and around Vancouver, Canada, and virtually 100% of the owls and the hawks in this group, had AR residues in their livers, the Nature News article “killing rats is killing birds” had a strong impact on the world [29]. The occurrence of AR poisoning in raptors is related to many factors, such as the exposure pathway, the degree of ARs inhibiting the target molecule (vitamin K 2,3-epoxide reductase, VKOR), and AR metabolism by cytochrome P450 (CYP).

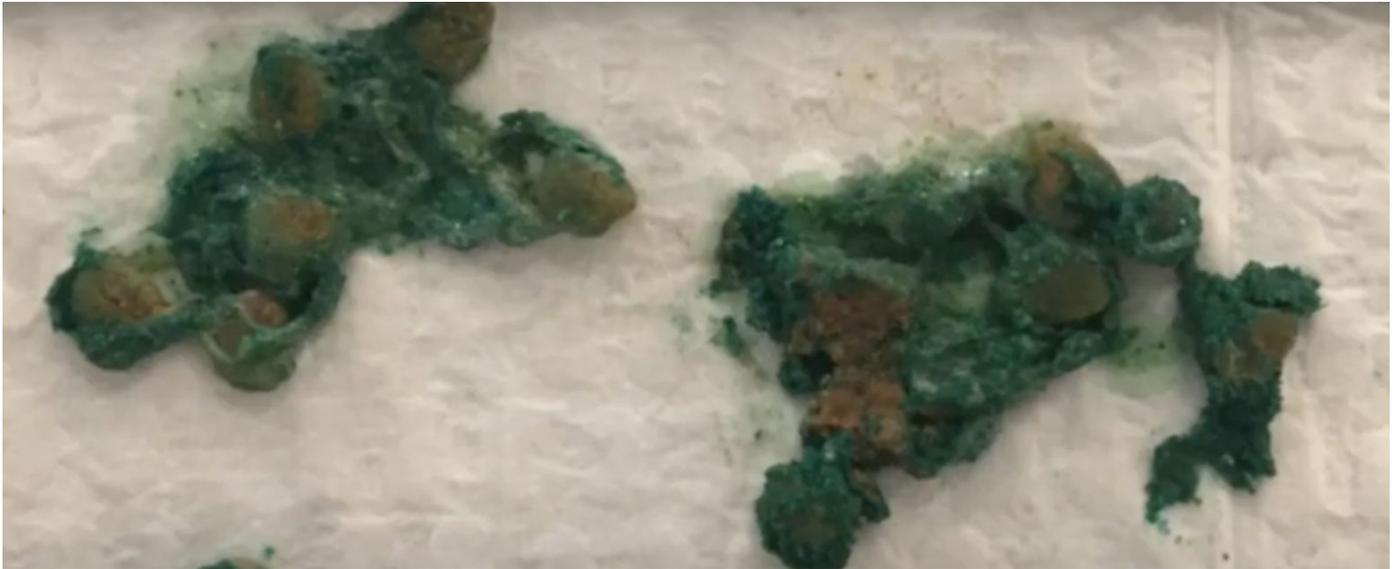
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6395208/>

THE REALITY OF RODENT POISONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER:





RODENT POISONS INGESTED BY PETS IN WHISTLER VILLAGE:



NOT JUST A RISK TO PETS!!

Rodenticides are included in the TOP 10 substances involved in poison exposures in children <6 years old. (Ontario Poison Centre). If a dog thinks it looks like candy, so will a toddler.

In the US, the American Association of Poison Control Centers has received reports of approximately 12 000 to 15 000 rodenticide exposures in children younger than 6 years old every year. (Health Canada Website)



According to an extensive survey conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency over a period of four years, poisoning symptoms have been identified in more than 25,000 children under age six between 1999 and 2003. Annually, parents make over 16,000 calls to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to report that their children have ingested rodenticides, either directly off the ground or from around the house and property.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/fact-sheets-other-resources/rodenticides-agricultural-settings/questions-answers.html>

A REAL THREAT TO LOCAL WILDLIFE:

A juvenile mink that was found on a Whistler bike trail, dying from internal GI bleeding.





OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN BC HAVE PAVED THE WAY:

<https://www.saanichnews.com/news/saanich-bans-municipal-rodenticide-use-after-owl-deaths/>



A great horned owl found dead near Kings Park was likely killed by rat poison. On Monday evening the District of Saanich voted unanimously to ban municipal use of anticoagulant rodenticides. (Photo Courtesy of Robert Vanzella)

Saanich bans municipal rodenticide use after owl deaths

District unanimously approves ban and community education

[NINA GROSSMAN](#) / Jul. 14, 2020 11:10 a.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)



<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/rat-poison-rodenticide-north-vancouver-district-ban-wildlife-owls-1.5611892>

British Columbia

District of North Vancouver votes to ban rat poison use

Rodenticides enter food chain and pose threats to local owl populations, councillor says

[Jon Hernandez](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jun 15, 2020 6:49 AM PT | Last Updated: June 16



Rat poison can indirectly poison wildlife and pets. (AFP/Getty Images)

UPDATE, June 16, 2020: District of North Vancouver councillors voted unanimously Monday to ban the use of rodenticides in the municipality.

**IN ONE YEAR I WILL
EAT 1,000 RODENTS.**



**PLEASE,
DON'T POISON
MY DINNER.**

Rodenticides kill
more than just
rodents.

Let birds of prey
do their job.



raptorsarethesolution.org

SEA TO SKY INJURED WILDLIFE EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

*Helping wildlife in the Sea to Sky get to the designated
wildlife rehabilitation centres safely and quickly.*



instagram & facebook: @seatoskyinjuredwildlife

email: seatoskyinjuredwildlife@gmail.com

<https://snoopandlove.org/initiatives/wildlife-emergency-response-network/>