

# Rescue Cape Cod Wildlife

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Zhao



# Agenda

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- Welcome
- Intro Story
- Rodent poison harms
- Non-poison rodent control
- Rescue Raptors Goals and Strategies
- Mass Audubon's support role
- How to get involved

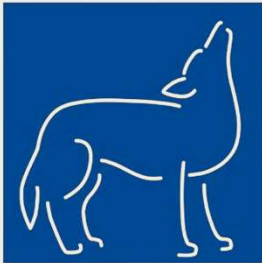




Wild Care

[www.wildcarecapecod.org](http://www.wildcarecapecod.org)  
CAPE COD'S EMERGENCY WILDLIFE CLINIC

The logo for Wild Care features three blue squares in a row. The first square contains a white outline of a turtle. The second square contains a white outline of a bird in flight. The third square contains a white outline of a dog. Below the squares, the words "Wild Care" are written in a large, black, serif font. Underneath the name, the website address "www.wildcarecapecod.org" and the text "CAPE COD'S EMERGENCY WILDLIFE CLINIC" are displayed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

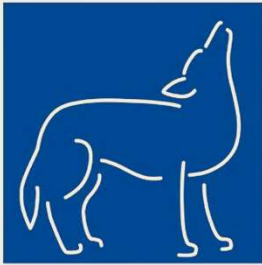


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Mass Audubon

# The Problem

Over-reliance on rat poisons such as second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides (SGARs) as a primary means of pest control has resulted in:

- SGAR-poisoned rodents passing poison onto predators
- Hundreds of raptors, foxes, and coyotes & dozens of pets treated for critical SGAR poisoning by MA vets each year

# What Are SGARs?

- Second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides
- Class of rodent poisons that kill by preventing blood clotting
- Banned for retail sale due to dangers to pets & children
- Widely used by licensed professionals in MA



# How to Spot SGARs

**PEST COMPANY NAME**

Your Local Pest Control Experts

Phone Number

Contents: Generation Blue Max Rodenticide

Active Ingredient: Difethialone 0.0025%

EPA Registration 7173-288



- Placed in plastic bait boxes
- Often found near dumpsters, in basements, along foundations, or under porches
- Must be labeled indoors, but not outside. Active ingredients include:
  - Brodifacoum
  - Bromadiolone
  - Difenacoum
  - Difethialone



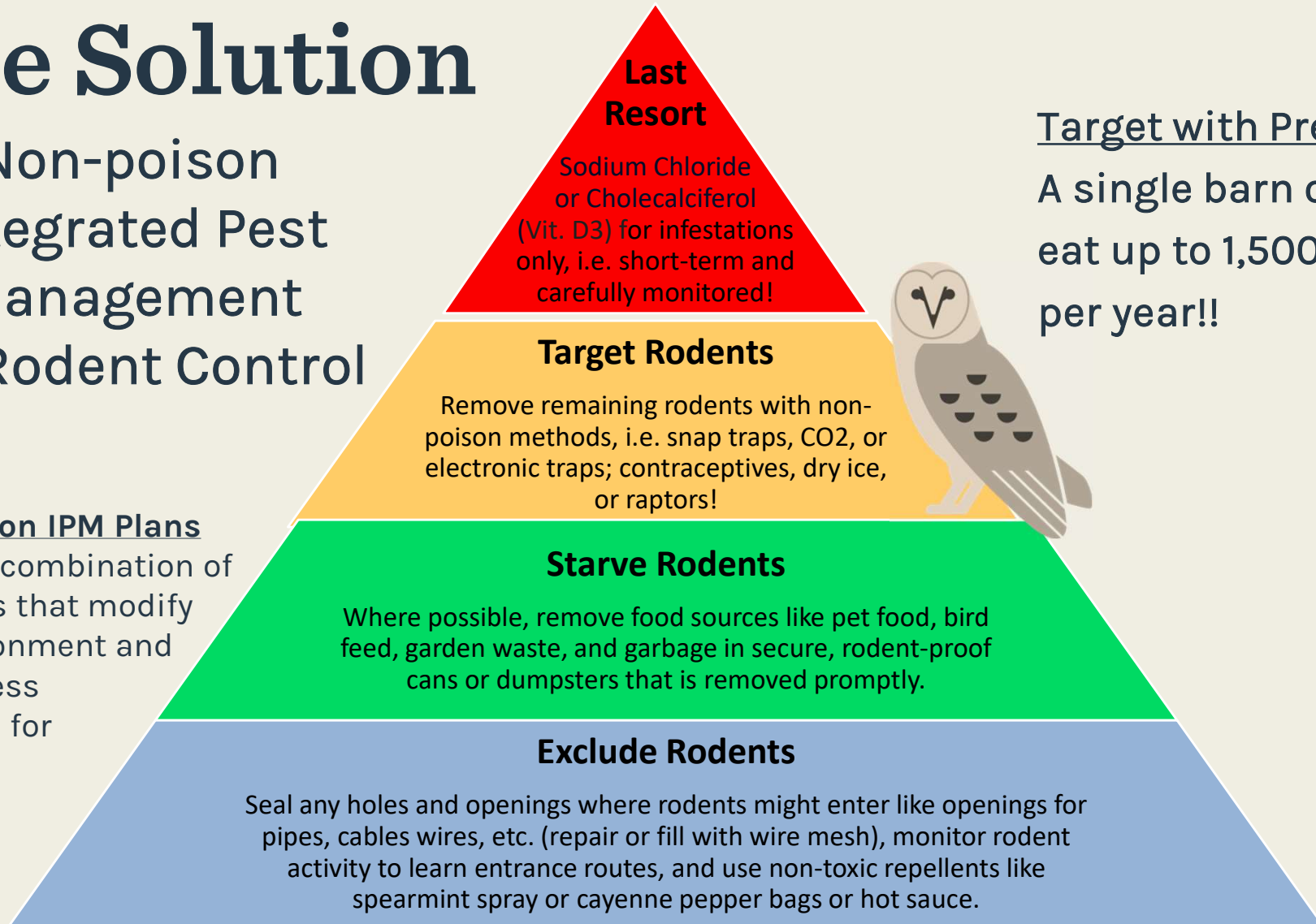


# The Solution

## Non-poison Integrated Pest Management for Rodent Control

### Non-poison IPM Plans

Outline a combination of strategies that modify the environment and make it less attractive for rodents.



Target with Predators!

A single barn owl can eat up to 1,500 rodents per year!!

# Exclude

- Seal rodent entrance routes (holes, spaces under porches, and openings where cables, pipes, and wires enter the space)
- Monitor rodent activity (i.e. bait that makes rodent droppings glow under black light)
- Use non-toxic repellents

*RATS flyers for barn, car, restaurant, & crawl space*

## Got Rats?

Here are some tips to prevent them without poison

Rats can enter your home through an opening the size of a dime. Seal all holes in roofs, walls, foundation, crawl spaces, and sheds. Seal openings around pipes, cables, and electrical wires that enter walls and foundations.

Cap plumbing vent stacks with hardware cloth.

Cut branches back three feet away from the roof.

Rip out ivy. Do not accumulate trash.

Use wire mesh or hardware cloth under porches that extends partially into the ground.

Provide tight-fitting covers on crawl space entrances.

Check garage shelves and storage sheds for evidence of rats.

Elevate your chicken coop by 18 inches.

Consider using a non-toxic fertility control product like Contrapest to decrease rat numbers.

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 trails to deter them.
- **Dry ice** in rat burrows.
- **A24 trap** by Automatic Trap.

**RAPTORS ARE THE SOLUTION**  
RaptorsAreTheSolution.org

# Starve

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- Avoid leaving food out for prolonged periods: this includes human food, pet food, livestock feed, and bird seed!
- Securely cover garbage cans



# Target

- Raptors!
- Snap traps
- Electronic traps
- Rodent contraceptives
- CO2 traps or dry ice
- Non-poison baits *as last resort!*



\* Do not use glue traps

# Mass Audubon's Rescue Raptors Program

**GOAL:** To reduce the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) used in Massachusetts by supporting volunteers with their municipal-level campaigns. We offer:

- Logistical support
- Strategic advice
- Connections to other advocacy groups
- Amplification of their local campaign and events



# Mass Audubon Strategies



**Educate Property Owners**  
on the harms of SGARs and the  
importance of shifting to  
Integrated Pest Management



**Advocate for Local Regulations**  
to restrict the use of SGARs on  
public property



**Push for Legislation**  
to strictly regulate the use of  
SGARs across Massachusetts

# Rescue Raptors Toolkit

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- All you need in one place!
- Info for new volunteers to get started
- Tools to support active town campaigns

**Please check it out!**

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# Rodenticide Municipal Team Tracker

To get started, open the tracker to find your town or city and see if there is a “Local Group Name” listed. Then please follow the instructions at the top of the sheet. Let’s get connected and start organizing!

Town/City	Local Group Name <i>(plus website if applicable)</i>	Facebook Group <i>(or other social media)</i> <a href="#">A 'How to Guide' for FB Groups</a>	Name <i>(pronouns)</i>
City or Town Name			

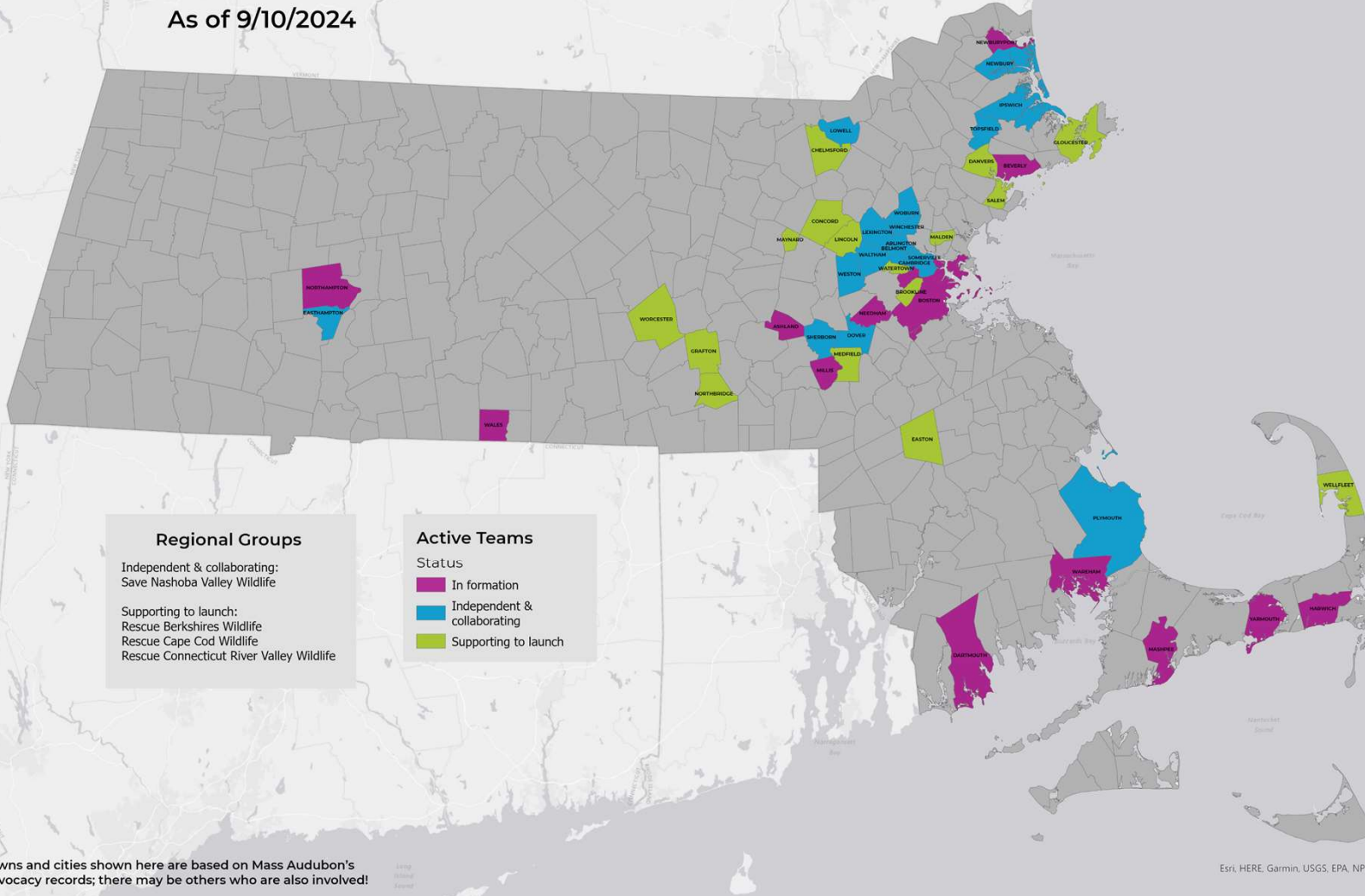
  

Role <i>(New sign-ups please contact group leaders)</i>	Shareable Email Address <a href="#">How to Create &amp; Fwd New Gmail</a>	Current Status	Upcoming Events
Group Leader			
Team Member		Team Building	



# Massachusetts Rodenticide Movement - Active Teams

As of 9/10/2024



## Active Municipalities

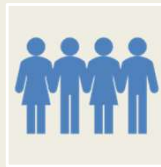
Arlington	Medfield
Ashland	Millis
Belmont	Needham
Beverly	Newbury
Boston	Newburyport
Brookline	Nashoba Valley
Cambridge	Berkshires
Chelmsford	CT River Valley
Concord	Cape Cod
Danvers	Regional
Dover/Sherborn	Regional
Easthampton	Regional
Easton	Salem
Gloucester	Somerville
Grafton	Topsfield
Harwich	Wales and
Ipswich	Waltham
Lexington	Watertown
Lincoln	Wellfleet
Lowell	Weston
Malden	Winchester
Mashpee	Woburn
Maynard	Worcester
	Yarmouth

# Mass Audubon's Role

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**Facilitate monthly campaign meetings for leaders**



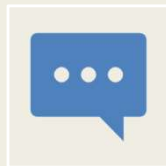
**Facilitate monthly orientations for new volunteers**



**Provide information and resources – check out the Rescue Raptors Campaign Toolkit!**



**Jointly plan and promote local campaign kick-off events**



**Speak and support IT at kick-off events**



**Support volunteers in developing local strategies and managing volunteers**



**Support filing and advocating for Home Rule Petitions**



**Manages Rodenticide Municipal Team Tracker**

# Rescue Cape Cod Wildlife

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## Join Our Next Meeting:

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom

## What's next?

- Facebook posting
- Community outreach
  - Table at community events
  - Speaker's training
  - Create pledge drives
- SGAR use research
- Coalition building
- Town campaigns – supporting volunteers
  - Coalition building
  - Researching town gov't & organizations



# How To Get Involved

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## Join Rescue Cape Cod Wildlife!

- Sign-up sheets are on the table
- Join the Facebook Group & invite your FB friends too!
- Attend the meetings and events

## Check out the Rescue Raptors Toolkit!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” – *Margaret Meade*

# Questions?



Learn More at  
[Massaudubon.org/rescueraptors](https://massaudubon.org/rescueraptors)