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1 message

Kelle Kacmarcik <kellekacmarcik@wildcarebayarea.org>
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 11:01 AM

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

I am writing on behalf of WildCare, a non-profit licensed wildlife rehabilitation hospital located in Marin County. We treat over 3,500 wild animals every year which come from all over the San Francisco Bay Area. WildCare's programs include a wildlife rehabilitation hospital, nature education, advocacy and humane non-lethal wildlife management solutions.

WildCare supports the City Council's interest in banning the use of rodenticides in City Parks and other City-owned, managed and leased properties. Rodenticides are indiscriminant killers and are dangerous to nontarget wildlife, domestic pets and children. WildCare has been testing our predatory wildlife patients—animals that eat rats and mice—for exposure to rat poisons since 2006. Our laboratory data document conclusively that predatory animals like owls, hawks and foxes who eat a poisoned rodent end up poisoned themselves. Of the samples we sent to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) at UC Davis in 2013, an astonishing 76.8% of tested patients show exposure to these toxic poisons.

The impact is far-reaching. The various toxins stay in body tissues for a surprisingly long amount of time. Brodifacoum and bromadiolone, two of the most prevalent and toxic second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides remain in body tissues for 217 days and 248 days respectively, which is one of the reasons so many WildCare patients test positive. These animals are simply unable to rid their bodies of the poisons.

Marin County, where WildCare is located, has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies and practices to manage overpopulation of rodents on City property. IPM uses best practices and science to manage these issues which in turn minimizes the danger to nontarget wildlife, domestic pets and children. It also reduces the use of pesticides. The Marin County IPM Program has proven very effective. If you would like more information, please visit: <http://www.marincountyparks.org/depts/pk/our-work/parks-main-projects/integrated-pest-management/related-information>.

Because of the known hazards of these toxic chemical compounds, California EPA's

Department of Pesticide Regulations has regulated that the four most dangerous rodenticides be designated as restricted materials and has ordered them removed from retail store shelves by July 1, 2014. The US EPA has also been working toward this same goal for several years. Clearly, rodenticides are wreaking havoc on our environment and killing our beneficial predators.

We urge you to enact a ban on the use of rodenticides on City properties for the health of our wildlife, pets and children and to adopt the more environmentally friendly and socially responsible way to manage rodents using IPM. Thank you.

Kelle Kacmarcik

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