



Rodenticide Policy

Select Board

Town of Boxborough, MA

Intent and Purpose

The purpose is to reduce unnecessary wildlife poisonings and potential harm to pets. Specifically, this policy aims to prohibit the application and use of Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) at properties under the care and control of the Town of Boxborough.

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General

The Town of Boxborough, through its Select Board, has adopted the following policy concerning the use of certain rodenticide products, widely known as Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides, or SGARs. SGARs are used to control rats and/or mice but have been clearly demonstrated to be harmful to non-target predator species. This causes harm to our larger ecosystem, and the secondary poisoning of natural predators of the target pests can have a counterproductive long-term impact on rodent control efforts.

Whereas the Town of Boxborough is committed to reducing unnecessary wildlife poisonings and potential harm to pets and children, this policy aims to specifically codify the application and use of SGARs at properties under the care and control of the Town of Boxborough.

Applicability

This policy applies to all Town-owned property, including buildings, grounds, parks, open spaces, and the public right of way, and shall be adhered to by all employees of the Town of Boxborough, as well as third party vendors and contractors providing services at Town-owned property.

Definitions

Rodenticides – A subclass of pesticides, defined under the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act, General Laws Chapter 132B, as substances or mixtures of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate rodents that are declared to be pests by the Massachusetts Pesticide Board.

SGAR – Acronym of Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide: rodenticides developed to control rodents that are resistant to First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides and that contain compounds interfering with blood clotting, causing death from excessive bleeding while also remaining in animal tissues for an extended period of time. These products currently include, but are not limited to, those containing brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone.

Use of SGAR

The use of SGARs on Town-owned properties is hereby prohibited as of the effective date of this policy.