

# Mouse and Rat Poison



**Information provided by Dr. Cecil Brownie, Veterinary Toxicologist**

**Poisonous to:** Cats, Dogs

**Level of toxicity:** Generally mild to severe, depending on the amount ingested, active ingredient, and concentration of the product

**Common signs to watch for:**

Dependent on the active ingredient

Poisoning from rodenticides (mouse and rat poisons) is one of the most common types of toxicities. These poisons are easy to obtain and used anywhere there might be rodents—in homes, garages, stables, farms and even parks or wildlife areas.

There are many different types of mouse and rat poisons available in a wide variety of colors (green, blue, tan, red, etc.) and formulations (pellets, bait blocks, grain-based baits, etc). Products which look similar and have similar names may contain very different types of poison. Thus, if a pet ingests mouse or rat poison, accurate identification of the active ingredient is crucial as this will determine the risk of poisoning and the need for treatment. If the active ingredient is not clearly visible on the packaging, another important identifier is the EPA registration number (EPA Reg. No.) – this number will allow veterinarians to correctly identify the active ingredient.

There are four common active ingredients in mouse and rat poisons: long-acting anticoagulants, cholecalciferol, bromethalin, and phosphide rodenticides. Each has a totally different mechanism of action of poisoning, and not all are treated with Vitamin K1! It's important to make sure you and your veterinarian have identified

the appropriate active ingredient of the mouse and rat poison to make sure treatment is appropriate.

If your dog or cat are poisoned by mouse and rat poison, call your veterinarian immediately for life-saving treatment recommendations. Rapid action can often save a pet's life and prevent the need for costly medical care. For specific poisons, please look under the active ingredient (long-acting anticoagulants, cholecalciferol, bromethlin, and phosphide).

**Poison type:** Garage Items

**Alternate names:** anticoagulants, cholecalciferol, phosphide, bromethalin, brodifacoum, d-Con, Vitamin K, difethialone, bromadiolone, warfarin, diphacinone, chlorophacinone, Fastrac, Clout, Assault, Tomcat, Real Kill, Vengeance, Vitamin D3, calcitriol, acute kidney failure, cerebral edema, Arrex, Commando, Gopha-Rid, Sweeney's Poisoned Peanuts, rodenticides