

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY

June 2018



ISSUE **114**

Our long battle against resistance

Since the brown rat & house mouse colonised the earth they have been battling against our persecutions.

6 Droning on: the essential guide for using drones in pest control 14

Many have flown ahead only to be shot down because they have not followed the correct procedures, obtained permission or completed paperwork beforehand.

State of the UK Barn Owl population 2017 24

Results from 38 independent groups collated by the Barn Owl Trust



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Bite Size...

Our long battle against resistance

6

Since the common brown rat & house mouse colonised the earth they have been battling against our persecutions.

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THE NATIONAL BEE UNIT HAS CONFIRMED A SIGHTING OF THE ASIAN HORNET IN THE BURY AREA OF LANCASHIRE 4

IT WAS SPOTTED BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN AN ITEM OF FOOD, WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN TRACED BACK TO BOSTON.

HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENTS – CONFUSED? 18

PCN SPEAKS TO A NEBOSH QUALIFIED TECHNICAL MANAGER, TO ADDRESS EXISTING CONFUSION OVER VARIOUS TYPES OF RISK ASSESSMENTS: WHAT THEY ARE, WHEN TO DO ONE AND TIPS ON HOW TO GO ABOUT IT.

GOODNATURE A24 AND HEDGEHOGS – STORY SO FAR 28

IN MARCH 2018 THE INDEPENDENT ONLINE PRODUCED AN ARTICLE SENSATIONALISING THE USE OF THE A24 TRAP IN THE UK.

LA'S PEST CONTROL MANAGERS - HELP US TO HELP YOU! 5

THE CIEH NPAP PEST MANAGEMENT SURVEY WAS DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY – SACRED IBIS 20

SIGHTINGS NEED TO BE REPORTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THEY ARE CLASSED AS AN 'ALERT SPECIES' BY THE NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT.

STATE OF THE UK BARN OWL POPULATION 2017 24

RESULTS FROM 38 INDEPENDENT GROUPS COLLATED BY THE BARN OWL TRUST.

DRONING ON: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR USING DRONES IN PEST CONTROL 14

MANY HAVE FLOWN AHEAD ONLY TO BE SHOT DOWN BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT FOLLOWED THE CORRECT PROCEDURES, OBTAINED PERMISSION OR COMPLETED PAPERWORK BEFOREHAND.

SCIENCE-SENSE 26

PROTECTING YOURSELF AGAINST PEST-BORNE SALMONELLA INFECTION.

RSPH HYGEIA AWARDS 32

RSPH WILL SOON BE SELECTING THEIR WINNERS FOR 2018, SOON TO BE KNOWN AS THE RSPH HYGEIA AWARDS.

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The National Bee Unit has confirmed a sighting of the Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina* in the Bury area of Lancashire.

It was spotted by a member of the public in an item of food, which has since been traced back to Boston, Lincolnshire.

The Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees and work is already underway to identify any nests, which includes setting up a surveillance zone and traps in the two identified locations and deploying bee inspectors to visit local beekeepers.

This is the first confirmed sighting since last year, when a nest was discovered in Woolacombe in North Devon. That Asian hornet incursion was successfully contained by bee inspectors who promptly tracked down and destroyed the nest.

Nicola Spence, Defra Deputy Director for Plant and Bee Health, said:

While the Asian hornet poses no greater risk to human health than a bee, we recognise the damage they can cause to honey bee colonies. That's why we are taking swift and robust action to locate and investigate any nests in the Bury and Boston areas following this confirmed sighting.

Following the successful containment of the Asian hornet incursion in North Devon last year, we have a well-established protocol in place to eradicate them and control any potential spread.

We remain vigilant across the country, working closely with the National Bee Unit and their nationwide network of bee inspectors.

Bee inspectors from APHA National Bee Unit will be carrying out surveillance and monitoring in a 1-2 km radius around the initial sighting. Additional monitoring and surveillance will be carried out in the Boston area where the item of food was grown.

If you suspect you have seen an Asian hornet you can report this using the iPhone and Android app 'Asian Hornet Watch' or by emailing:

alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk



Guidelines for online sales of anticoagulant rodenticide products have been updated for recently introduced smaller packs and lower active ingredient levels in products for general public use.

The guidelines published by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use seek to ensure online sales of products for the general public comply fully with product authorisations, explains CRRU Point Of Sale work group leader Rupert Broome.

“In line with bricks and mortar sellers, this includes clear demarcation between general public and professional rodenticide users,” he says. “The guidelines include a reminder to online sellers that, for professional use rodenticides, they are also subject to the same strict point-of-sale controls as all other retailers.”

For both categories, the guidelines specify that rodenticides can only be sold in original packaging, including statutory labelling provided by the authorisation holder. It is illegal to break down original packaging into smaller quantities.

Failure to comply with any aspect of the regime may lead to the company concerned being reported to HSE, Trading Standards and any other relevant body. It may also lead to cancellation of the authorisation for sale of the product concerned.

The guidelines are available from <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads/>.



Farmers, gamekeepers and pest controllers are being encouraged to undertake knowledge updates to maintain their professional competence in the use of stewardship-label rodenticides.

In its response to UK Rodenticide Stewardship's 2017 annual report, the Government panel that oversees the regime says continuing professional development (CPD) is particularly important. "Management of environmental risks relies on high levels of knowledge among those who use rodenticides outdoors, in order to limit the potential for secondary poisoning of non-target species and other unintended exposure," it states.

From the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use, the body that co-ordinates stewardship implementation, chairman Dr Alan Buckle explains that obtaining a training-based certificate of competence or stewardship-approved farm assurance membership is not seen as a lifetime pass.

He confirms that the regime's Training and Certification Work Group is currently drawing up CPD materials for all rodenticide user groups.

Other requirements in the Government panel's response paper include starting to monitor liver residues of rodenticides in the red kite, as a sentinel of scavenging species, in addition to the barn owl that takes live prey.

The paper confirms, "the Rodenticides Stewardship Regime is fit for purpose". It acknowledges new standards adopted by stewardship-approved farm assurance schemes, the 2018 programme of BASIS store audits, and supply of all requested monitoring data.

It also reaffirms that "Government scrutiny will focus on the extent of any behavioural change among those operating in the sector and the measurable effect this has on residue levels in non-target animals. Government will fully evaluate the regime after five years of operation at the latest." That deadline is in 2020.

The full response paper is available from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/eu-bpr/Rodenticides-Stewardship-Regime-GOG-rev-Feb2018.pdf>. The panel's formal title is Rodenticides Stewardship Government Oversight Group. It is chaired by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and includes other government stakeholders: HSE NI, DEFRA, Public Health England, Natural England, the Welsh and Scottish Governments and an independent scientific adviser.



LA's pest control managers - help us to help you!

The CIEH NPAP Pest Management survey was distributed to local authorities, subscribing electronically to the CIEH EHC Net in February of this year.

The survey followed a similar format to the previous surveys carried out in 2002, 2009 and 2012 and will capture 15 years' worth of data.

In a bid to work in unison to obtain comparable, accurate data that can be used to illustrate the impact of the governments Comprehensive Spending Review on local authority pest control services, NPAP asked that local authorities complete the survey of their own volition, without forcing a hand with the Freedom of Information Act.

Unfortunately, the response to the survey has been significantly lower than expected.

It was hoped that data extrapolated from the current survey, when compared to data from previous surveys, could be used to accurately gauge how the budget cuts affected the local authority pest control services and their ability to protect their communities against public health pests. However, the small sample size currently received makes this unfeasible.

The NPAP survey was conducted professionally without the necessity of resorting to legislation to encourage responses and NPAP are urging all local authorities to complete this survey. If you are a local authority and would like to complete the survey email NPAP@CIEH.org and a survey will be emailed by return.

Help us to help you!

Our long battle against resistance

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*Since the brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) & house mouse (*Mus musculus domesticus*) colonised the earth they have been battling against our persecutions. Now these highly adaptable pests have mutated into what some have called “super rats/mice”. Through our persistent use of anticoagulants, genetically resistant “super” rats and mice have been selected and are spreading rapidly around the globe.*



1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2018

1958: First case of resistance to first generation anticoagulants in UK

Second Generation anticoagulants Bromadiolone & Difenacoum released

Resistance to Bromadiolone & Difenacoum discovered

In the beginning - 1950s The development of anticoagulant rodenticides in the early 1950s revolutionised rodent control. First used in human medicine, this unique substance had a delayed effect and so did not deter clever rodents from repeatedly eating this deadly bait until a lethal dose had been consumed. By the late 1950s, however, resistance to these compounds was found in some Norway rat and house mouse populations. A superb example of natural selection and one of the reasons why these highly adaptable animals can give even the best pest controller a headache.

Consequently, more potent second-generation anticoagulants (bromadiolone & difenacoum) were marketed and proved effective. However, in the endless evolutionary arms race, rats and mice came out on top again when, within just a few years of the new rodenticides' arrival, resistance was again identified. Resistance for these compounds has been spreading ever since AND we are still trying to fill in the gaps where we have no resistance data!

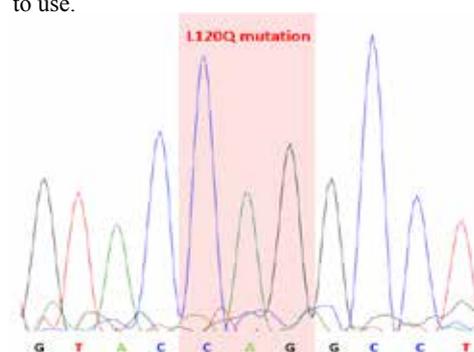
The Genetics

It is assumed that these mutations arose from a random mutation event and they were most likely present in populations at low frequency even before the introduction of anticoagulants. Thanks to early genomic work we are able to identify resistant animals from a simple tissue sample (e.g. a tail cutting). Resistant mutations are known to occur on the VKORC1 gene and will alter the enzymes which are involved in the vitamin K cycle (vital for the coagulation of blood). This in turn inhibits the anticoagulant's mechanism and enables what some have named a "super" rat or mouse to survive.

The graph below shows part of the genetic sequence of a Norway rat's VKORC1 "resistance" gene. The letters refer to nucleotide bases, it only takes one of these bases to mutate/change to result in a resistant animal! This individual has the L120Q "Berkshire" resistance.

From these graphs we can also figure out the genotype of the individual. A resistance strain exists in two forms: homozygotes and heterozygotes. Homozygous is the most severe form because these animals have a higher tolerance to anticoagulants and will always produce resistant offspring.

Resistance screening is carried out at the Vertebrate Pests Unit laboratory at Reading University. Dr Colin Prescott's research team store and analyse rat and mouse tail samples from around the world. They can tell you what resistance strain your rat/mouse population has as well as providing advice on the best anticoagulants to use.



Norway / Brown Rat

For the brown rat, five main mutations are known within the UK of varying severities. The worst mutation is known as L120Q, previously known as the Hampshire / Berkshire strain. As its name suggests it was originally found in Hampshire and has since been discovered covering an extensive range of south England at high frequency, particularly in Berkshire. This mutation is also found across the channel in France and Belgium as are the Kent and Gloucester strains. These 3 strains confer the highest resistance to Bromadiolone, and Difenacoum but to a lesser extent. These widespread strains most likely extend across much more of the UK and many other countries, however, getting tail samples to map the full extent of resistance has and is proving difficult for researchers.

House Mouse

For the house mouse, there are only two known resistant mutations in the UK – Y139C & L128S. Compared to their larger cousin, the brown rat, we know very little about the resistance strains for this species. What we do know is house mice possess a natural tolerance to anticoagulants and so a certain level of resilience to these has been present since their introduction over half a century ago. It is widely known that first-generation anticoagulants like warfarin are not authorised for use against house mice populations, which is reiterated by the European Commission. Furthermore, several field trials using bromadiolone and difenacoum baits have failed against house mouse populations in the UK, which contained resistant individuals. Therefore, complete control will be hard to achieve against resistant mouse populations, particularly when using bromadiolone. Research at the University of Reading found Y139C mice to have high resistance factors against bromadiolone and comparatively low factors against difenacoum. This suggests that difenacoum should be efficacious against this strain of mouse. However, mice surviving difenacoum treatments may possess a higher tolerance which could then be passed onto the next generation of mice, making eradication of these populations that much harder.

Recently, thanks to pest controllers from London sending in tail samples to be screened for resistance, the first ever UK map of house mouse resistance has been produced. Over 88% of the samples possessed a resistance gene. Both strains were found in almost equal measure and 3 individuals had both mutations! A similar situation has happened in Germany, where a study revealed that over 90% of mouse samples collected throughout the country tested positive for resistance. However, unlike Germany, the UK only has samples from one city. If we are to get a better understanding of the spread of these strains and appropriately inform pest controllers, then we need to test more tail samples from around the whole of the UK! View our UK maps at: <https://research.reading.ac.uk/resistant-rats/uk-maps/>

UK's 5 MOST SEVERE RAT MUTATIONS

Known Locations And Anticoagulant Use

1	2	3	4	5
L120Q (Berkshire)	Y139C (Gloucester)	Y139F (Kent)	Y139S (Welsh)	L128Q (Scottish)
South/South East England	Scattered points around UK	Kent/East Sussex	Shropshire	Scotland/NW England
Bromadiolone Difenacoum Brodifacoum Flocoumafen Difethialone	Bromadiolone Difenacoum Brodifacoum Flocoumafen Difethialone	Bromadiolone Difenacoum Brodifacoum Flocoumafen Difethialone	Bromadiolone* Difenacoum Brodifacoum Flocoumafen Difethialone	Bromadiolone Difenacoum Brodifacoum Flocoumafen Difethialone



ONE RAT – TWO MUTATIONS

One individual (depicted by the orange diamond), was found to contain both the L128Q (Scottish) mutation AND the L120Q (Berkshire) mutation.

Red = Not recommended for use Green = Recommended for use *Evidence of increasing resistance

FREE RAT & MOUSE RESISTANCE TESTING – NOT AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE MISSED!

You can now discover the resistance status of both rats and mice in your area. In partnership with the Rodenticide Resistance Action Committee (RRAC), the Vertebrate Pests Unit (VPU) team at University of Reading are providing free resistance screening of rat and mouse-tail clippings. Knowing if you have a resistant problem will allow you to pick the best products to use, saving money and time in controlling resistant populations, as well as reducing the risk of these toxicants entering our environment.

Three easy steps - All you'd need to do is to put a 2-3cm rat/mouse tail clipping into a clean plastic zip-lock bag and post it (contact VPU for address), along with the postcode of where the tail came from and your email. Site postcodes are treated as highly confidential and are not published in any form. We aim to email you back with your results within 3-4 weeks once the tails arrive – GOOD LUCK COLLECTING!

<https://research.reading.ac.uk/resistant-rats/rat-resistance-testing/>

Emily Coan, Vertebrate Pests Unit, Harborne Building, School of Biological Sciences, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AS, UK



Peter Fielding, Senior Sales Manager, Killgerm

After 24 years in the industry, Peter gives PCN the exclusive parting interview upon the announcement of his retirement.

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Career Path.

I left school at 16 and started to work for the Midland bank.

I made a lot of good friends in those days and one or two are still friends to this day. During that time, I experienced decimalisation and one job I had was adding up figures in ledgers, it was pleasing to lose pounds, shillings and pence and move onto the simpler pounds and pence.

I decided after a few years to get into sales and ended up at a company called A+J Beveridge where fate took a hand and I met a certain gentleman from Wellcome Pesticides called Tony Hudson. It was his encouragement that got me into selling insecticides into the public health market.

First day at Killgerm.

The decision to join Killgerm at the time meant that I was undertaking a lot more travelling and it was going to impact on my family life.

However, my first visit to Killgerm head office reassured me that I had made the right decision. They say people make a business and it was clear the ethos of the company was that staff were looked after. So much so there are still people with the company now 24 years later.

It was very clear that the company employed good, friendly people who cared about their customers.

Biggest Challenges.

Initially replacing Bernard Mchugh, my predecessor was the first challenge. He was obviously well liked both by his colleagues and more importantly his customers

Another big challenge came a few years later when I was promoted to sales director. It required me continuing to keep the Northern area covered from a sales point of view but then providing leadership to the sales force.

Favourite Memory working for Killgerm.

Very hard to say because genuinely there have been so many.

One that stands out because of the impact it had on others and was a great experience was working with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health "Northern centre".

In those days Weekend Schools were organised annually and I was fortunate to meet up with some very good people who were happy to put a lot of their own time into these events. Two people stand out. The late John Craiggs from Blyth port Health and Phil Bentley who at the time was working for Berwick upon Tweed council. I was proud to say that the result was that pest control was high profiled to many student EHOs, key people involved in the future of public health.

Biggest Achievements.

It's a hard one this. Blowing my own trumpet is something that embarrasses me.

However, I would like to say that my main aim in my working life was to get respect from my customers and colleagues. My recent announcement of retirement has led to many kind words from many people I have



spoken to suggesting that I probably did a half decent job. I would like to say to all of those I have met over the years a big thank you for your support, friendship and the good times I experienced.

People who made the biggest influence on my time in the pest control Industry.

Tony Hudson, a good friend, who introduced me to the pest control industry and continued with his encouragement and support over the years.

David Oldbury "Mr Public Health." For those lucky enough to have met David they will understand my comment. I am privileged to call David a friend as well as a customer from the past when he managed the pest control service at Manchester city council.

The NPAP organisation which most people who care about public health will know about and the enormous amount of work that has been achieved was initiated by David. This came from his passion to protect those vulnerable people in society. Long may this group continue to do an excellent job, society still needs it.

Johnathan Peck, firstly thanks for giving me a job and creating a company that believes in doing not only a good job but the right job. From day one Killgerm always had a stewardship scheme promoting professional people and standards for those wanting to use professional chemicals.

He created a company that gave a lot back to its customers in the way of training, technical support, waste disposal etc and has done so for many years and look how much more important these services have become.

When some people looked 5 years ahead he was looking 10 years ahead. It was a pleasure and great honour to have known him, he created not just a company but a culture. When he knew he was dying of cancer he placed Killgerm into trust so we could carry on the work he had started.

Favourite Place.

Well apart from my home which for many years I seemed to leave behind on a regular basis. Favourite place? The UK of course!

Thanks.

Thanks to all those who supported me over the time when my son was ill with cancer. You know who you are!

I will leave you with that thought but just to say a BIG THANKS to all those customers who have supported me over the years. Mostly, I would like to say are friends as well.

The biggest thanks go to my family particularly my wife who spent more days in a week without me as I travelled the country, and thank god after 45 years she is still with me!

Lastly I was asked what the future holds for the industry?

Well I would say more of the same change, change and more change.

Just one thing though to consider, and I would say this wouldn't I, but quality not price will always win. That is true in all businesses.

Just one very last thing. What will I do in my retirement?

Spend more time with the family, period of rest and not having to deal with traffic jams. Enjoy life and who knows as I travel the country, which is my intention, forgive me if I see a pest controller I might stop you and say hello.

BASIS PROMPT has refreshed its vehicle stickers to help members promote their professional credentials on the road.

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Featuring the distinct blue and white BASIS PROMPT branding, the stickers are being posted out to full and associate members with their renewal packs.

The vehicle graphics are the latest offering from BASIS PROMPT as part of its ongoing drive to provide materials and resources to support the work and professional status of its members – and to encourage them to use the logo in their own marketing materials.

A logo request form is available for members in the resources section on the new website www.basis-prompt.co.uk. Launched at PestTech last year, the new site has been designed to provide content that is bespoke to each member.

It includes a dedicated login area where members can check their own CPD tally and each event they have attended.

The facility also shows the total number of CPD points they need to collect.

BASIS PROMPT has also launched a mobile app that provides technicians with an at-a-glance picture of where they're up to with their training goals – and provides members with an identity card which acts as proof of their credentials.

Members can find the app at www.basis-app.co.uk where they can add it to their device's home screen.

TRAPPIT

Wasp Range

the adventures of
**Tenacious
Ted**



Ted is very much old school when it comes to pest control. To say that his methods are overkill would be a major understatement.

Being a retired fighter pilot his naturally reaction to taking care of nuisance wasps is to get up in the air for a dogfight!

If only he had heard about the Trappit wasp range of products from Agrisense he could have saved himself a whole lot of time and effort. They are easy and clean to use and once you have put them into action you can sit back and relax until it has done its thing.

Please note: No wasps were harmed in any way in the making of this advertisement, Ted clearly needs more practice.

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METHODS
EFFECTIVE
EASY TO
USE

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Droning on... the essential guide for using drones in pest control.

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Drones have been a popular discussion point amongst pest controllers for a few years. Many have flown ahead only to be shot down because they have not followed the correct procedures, obtained permission or completed paperwork beforehand. Others have flown under the radar and have been operating drones as part of their service illegally. (We're not going to apologise for the number of flying puns in this article)

Drones have their uses when it comes to pest control. They can be your 'eyes in the sky', inspecting on roofs allowing you to examine guttering, solar panels and potential access points which is otherwise hard and time consuming when using a ladder. They can also be utilised in spaces where it is hard or unsafe for humans to access, such as derelict buildings, chimneys or other small or enclosed spaces.

Recently PCN attended a seminar at PPC Live on the use of drones in pest control. The session was engaging but it highlighted the significant amount of knowledge, paperwork and financial investment required to legally use drones as part of a commercial operation.

Before you can start practising your pilot speech, it's important that you brush up on your

knowledge of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulations relating to the commercial use of small drones. These regulations are contained within the Air Navigation Order 2016 (ANO 2016) and confirm the additional steps that must be adhered to before a drone is flown for commercial reasons. For example, some of the stipulations are;

- A person must not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property.
- The person in charge of the small unmanned aircraft (SUA) may only fly the aircraft if they are reasonably satisfied that the flight can be made safely.
- The person in charge of the SUA must not fly the aircraft over or within 150 metres of any congested area or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of 1,000 persons.

The regulation confirms the correct procedures required when operating a drone and the person in control of the SUA must have full understanding of the regulations. For further details consult the CAA.

As part of the Permissions process the CAA require all commercial operators of SUA's to undertake an assessment course with an approved

National Qualified Entity (NQE) to prove competence to operate unmanned aircraft.

The NQE is necessary for those who have no previous aviation training or qualifications. A typical NQE course involves pre-entry / online study, 1-3 days of classroom lessons and exercises, a written theory test and a flight assessment. Once this course is completed operators are then required to develop their own operation manual and practice aircraft operations and flying skills that will form part of a practical flight assessment. The NQE allows you to arrange and complete your flight assessment at your own pace. For further details on approved assessment organisations for NQE's, refer to the CAA website.

At this point you're still not off the ground in operating SUA's for commercial use. Permission is granted based on the information contained in the Operations Manual. Permission holders do not need to seek approval for every job. Providing the job meets the specifications set out in the Operations Manual then the CAA does not need to get involved. As part of your approval most commercial operators can fly a drone weighing less than 7kg in a congested area. Anything that is not contained in the Operations Manual needs additional approval from the CAA, that includes flying within 50m of people, property etc. The Permission needs to be renewed annually.



A standard permission enables a person to conduct commercial operations with SUA within a congested area. As part of the submission operators are required to provide evidence of pilot competence and an operations manual which details how the flight will be conducted.

Details on how to apply can be found on the CAA website which states all evidence required as part of the submissions. Specifics on renewals and variations can be found there as well. Applications for Permissions can take a minimum of 28 working days up to 6 weeks.

So, you're now trained, have permission from the CAA for the job, but before you switch on the 'fasten seat belt sign' you're also required to ensure that you have the appropriate insurance coverage, this is also a condition of each Permission submitted to the CAA. Regulation (EC) 785/2004 requires air craft carriers and aircraft operators (which includes drone operators) to ensure that insurance cover exists for every flight.

At this point you should now be ready to jet off! Bearing in mind that you've already outlaid a considerable amount of money for training, insurance and permissions. The cost of a commercial drone, which can carry the equipment required to conduct inspections can cost from £5,000.

If you don't have the finances available within your company to purchase, maintain and run a drone there is the option to outsource this kind of work to an SUA operator with a CAA Permission. This takes away a lot of the legislative burden that running a SUA has, however you do require the knowledge of the necessary requirements to operate a SUA so that you hire an operator who has a permission.

Not to drone on any further, it's important and necessary to understand all the implications of using a SUA as part of your company. Many have already flown off into the sunset and not considered the consequence, but at the end of the day it's your business credibility on the line and if you don't follow the legalisation set down by the CAA, legal action will be taken against your business if you don't comply.

Before any steps are taken to using SUA's as part of your business you must consult with the CAA.

What are your thoughts? Are you already using drones as part of your pest control business?

Health & Safety Assessments – Confused?

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PCN speaks to a NEBOSH (National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health) qualified Technical Manager in the pest control industry, to address existing confusion over various types of risk assessments: what they are, when to do one and tips on how to go about it.

- Site Specific Risk assessment
- COSHH Assessment
- Environmental Risk Assessment
- Pest Risk Assessment

Site Specific Risk assessment

Yes, this is law and it is all about assessing the risk which may arise from hazards in the workplace. This assessment needs to be 'suitable and sufficient'. It involves identification of the hazards on an individual site and consideration of what you are going to do about them to reduce the risk they pose. Following the basic health and safety principle of PLAN – DO – CHECK – ACT is key. Such assessments always need to be reviewed when any major changes occur. This could be change of personnel, or additional personnel, building changes, environment changes (such as landscaping), materials change (for example change to a different biocide). Beyond this a review should take place as a minimum annually. The standard five steps to risk assessment apply – Identify the hazard, decide who might be harmed, evaluate the risks, record your findings and review (update if necessary). Experience dictates that this document may be one of the first requested during an investigation by HSE (Health and Safety Executive).

Key points:

- Include site address

- Date and date of review
- 5 steps of risk assessment
- Examples are available from the HSE website

COSHH Assessment

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health assessment is required under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002. Your site-specific risk assessment will have identified if you need to use a substance that could be hazardous to health. If it does then you need a COSHH assessment too. The data for your COSHH assessment comes from the product label and the material safety data sheet (MSDS). Both of these documents are available from the manufacturers and distributors. The label is always supplied with the product.

Always read the label.

Some of the key points on the label are boxed (the statutory box remains on some insecticide labels) and provides fundamental information such as approval / authorization numbers, areas of use, dosage rates, species approvals.

Key points:

- This is law
- Labels and MSDS must be readily available
- The insecticide / rodenticide is the hazard to human health and we need to consider measures to take to reduce the risk of harm to an acceptable level – this is the main crux of a COSHH assessment

Environmental Risk Assessment

This is predominantly used to assess the risk to non-target species when rodenticides are used externally, a key part of delivering the UK rodenticide stewardship regime led by the

Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU). We can use this assessment to identify whether or not a target or non-target species is present, then decide the best course of action following consideration of the risk hierarchy. The risk hierarchy is detailed in the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice and includes proofing and physical environmental changes as giving a lower impact on the environment, with second generation anticoagulants presenting the greatest risks. Although not strictly law the voluntary stewardship regime is overseen by a Government Oversight Group of which HSE are members, and as written into a code of best practice the environmental risk assessment falls just below regulations (as industry specific advice). Also, if you are a BPCA or NPTA member, both associations support the UK rodenticide stewardship regime and it is a condition that their members follow the associated Code of Practice. The product label will always come first but the environmental risk assessment will adhere to it. With regard to follow up inspections, searches for dead rodents, frequent checks and the prescribed time a rodenticide can be in place for, these are all mentioned on labels and should be covered by the treatment report records made.

Key points:

- See the CRRU code – available from <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/>
- You can download a template for an Environmental Risk Assessment here too <https://www.thinkwildlife.org/>

Pest Risk Assessment

This document is often required to fulfill audit specifications. It is used to determine service level after pest risk evaluation. Many aspects of the site can be considered; ranging from the type of external environment, the products produced,

the site purpose, building construction, historic pest activity, type of pest(s). This all culminates in a resultant service level, generally four, six, eight, twelve, twenty-four or fifty-two visits a year. All types of monitoring should be incorporated and the assessment will also determine what type of monitoring is needed based on risk, e.g. a flour mill may require stored product insect, rodent, flying and crawling insect monitoring systems. A storage depot may need rodent and flying/crawling insect systems. Various formats for the assessment can be used.

Key points:

- Not always needed, can be a good to have and some audit standards specify one should be in place
- Remember to evaluate the site as a whole and take into consideration all aspects of outer and inner environment plus any historic records of previous pest issues.

References

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies/>

Introduction to Health and Safety at work (6th Edition) Phil Huges MBE Ed Ferrett

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/controlling-risks.htm>

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/>



Know your enemy

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Sightings of the Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* need to be reported as soon as possible as they are classed as an 'alert species' by the non-native species secretariat. The threats posed by the Sacred Ibis predation of eggs and young of other birds and bird-strike hazard to aircraft due to the large size of the birds.

Sightings must be reported here http://www.brc.ac.uk/risc/alert.php?species=sacred_ibis

Species Information

Scientific Name: *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Common Name: *Sacred Ibis*

Native to: African regions

Habitat: Wet grasslands and shallow wetlands. Also landfill sites, arable fields & intertidal estuaries. The Sacred Ibis has been recorded, 30 in number along coastal marshes and inland reservoirs in England and Wales.

Reproduction: Sacred Ibises nest in colonies, sometimes alongside herons and egrets, building nests in trees or on the ground.

Appearance: A large and mainly white bird. It has a black head, black neck and long heavy downcurved black bill, black scapular plumes and long black legs. In flight it can be identified by the narrow black trailing edge to the broad white wings and the characteristic dark head, neck & bill.

The Sacred Ibis measures 75 centimetres in length and weighs 1.35 kilograms with a wingspan of 112 – 124 centimetres.

Field signs:

- Call - Generally silent.
- Behaviour - In Europe often found in flocks on coastal estuaries, but individual birds can join flocks of other waterbird species e.g. Herons. Breeding season is March to May.
- Nest - Colonial breeder, the nest forming a platform made from sticks and any other available materials.
- Eggs - 2 - 4 in a clutch. Dull white with a faint blue tinge.
- Fledglings - Once the chicks have fledged they can form large crèches.

Movement: Single sacred ibis occur sporadically in the wild in Great Britain. Some individuals have been observed over several years, roaming between sites. First recorded in Pantyfynnon a small village in Carmarthenshire, Wales in 1995. The current UK population are most likely to have escaped from captivity or strayed from Europe, particularly France where in the 1970's & 80's zoos encouraged free-flying breeding colonies within their grounds which has led to established wild living colonies numbering more than 1,200 pairs bred in several scattered sites more so in western France.

Environmental impact: Largely carnivorous feeders where their diet includes earthworms, insects, fish, particularly crayfish & small rodents. They may also prey on other eggs or the young of ground nesting wading bird's species. The possible impact on public health by roosting close to human habitats is currently a concern. Natural England have included this species under the general licence GL06 to conserve flora and fauna since 2017.

Know your friend

Polecats

Mustela putorius

European polecats *Mustela putorius* can be seen as friends to pest controllers because they are natural predators of the Norway rat *Rattus norvegicus*. Furthermore, they are protected under schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) so an awareness of this species is beneficial.

A scientific paper published in May this year reported 79% of European polecats in England and Wales are currently exposed to second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) (Sainsbury *et al.*, 2018). This rate of exposure is 1.7 fold higher than in the 1990s. This provides yet another reason to follow rodenticide labels, the CRRU UK Code of Best Practice and especially to collect rodent carcasses frequently.

The split of anticoagulant residues reported were:

- **71% polecats had residues of bromadiolone,**
- **53% difenacoum,**
- **35% brodifacoum.**

The Wildlife Trust (in this case the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust) provide information on recognition of polecats, outlined below.

Species information

Common name: Polecat

Latin name: *Mustela putorius*

Category: Mammals

Statistics: Length: 40cm plus a tail of 15cm Weight: 1kg Average lifespan: 5 years

Conservation status Protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

About

A member of the Mustelid family, which includes the Stoat and Badger, the Polecat is roughly the size of a Ferret - its domesticated cousin. Numbers seriously declined in the early 20th century, reaching their lowest ebb in the 1950s. They were considered to be a pest of game and poultry and were persecuted. However, Polecats have been undergoing a recent recovery and can be found in rural Wales and parts of England. Polecats set up home in lowland wooded habitats, marshes, along riverbanks or even in farm buildings or dry stone walls.

How to identify

Polecats have a two-tone coat: dark brown guard hairs cover a buff-coloured underfur. They have a distinct bandit-like appearance with white stripes across their face. Polecats do cross with escaped Ferrets; crosses tend to have lighter, creamier fur on their back and more white on their faces, extending past their ears. Polecats have short, dark tails and rounded ears.

Where to find it

Found in Wales, parts of Scotland and parts of England including Avon, the South East, South Cumbria, as far north as Cheshire and as far east as Leicestershire.

How can people help

Persecuted to the brink of extinction, Polecats have been making a comeback since they received legal protection and because their favourite food - the Rabbit - is on the increase. Threats continue today, however, with accidental trappings, road deaths and cross-breeding with escaped Ferrets. If you think you've spotted a Polecat, let your local Wildlife Trust know as they will be keen to hear about sightings of rare animals. In terms of rodent control where polecats are active, advice is to follow the CRRU Code.

Protecting yourself against pest-borne salmonella infection

PCN has run a series of new ‘science sense’ articles in our previous two issues, examining the latest research in the scientific literature and providing a common-sense summary to readers. Issue 113 introduced new findings regarding the carriage of antibiotic-resistant bacteria by pests. In this issue we share some practical advice about protecting yourself against pest-borne salmonella infection, courtesy of Dr Stuart Mitchell, D.O., DVM, PsyD, BCE, (a board-certified family practitioner and entomologist).

Our aim continues, which is for key scientific information to be communicated exactly where it matters – to pest management professionals. Too often the bridge to practitioners isn’t made, but not anymore...

During your work day, are you exposed to disease-causing microorganisms? As a pest controller, you have become competent in rodent management. While you serve public health by controlling rodent populations, are you serving your own good health by eliminating your exposure to rodent-borne pathogens?

Spread of rodent-borne disease to humans

Rats and mice spread more than 35 diseases. These include diseases spread directly to humans via rodent handling, and contact with blood, saliva, bites, scratches, urine, droppings, carrion and waste. Also included are diseases spread indirectly to humans via fleas, ticks and mites that feed on infected rodents.

One potentially serious disease spread via rodent urine and droppings is salmonellosis. Additionally, birds, rabbits, cats, dogs, pigs, goats, sheep, horses, cattle, snakes and other wildlife spread salmonella. Consuming water or food that is contaminated by rodent droppings may potentially spread the disease.

What is salmonellosis?

Salmonellosis is a common bacterial infection of the gut. Symptoms include fever, headache, cramps, mild to severe bloody diarrhoea and occasional vomiting. Blood infections can be very serious. Typhoid fever is the most severe type of salmonella infection.

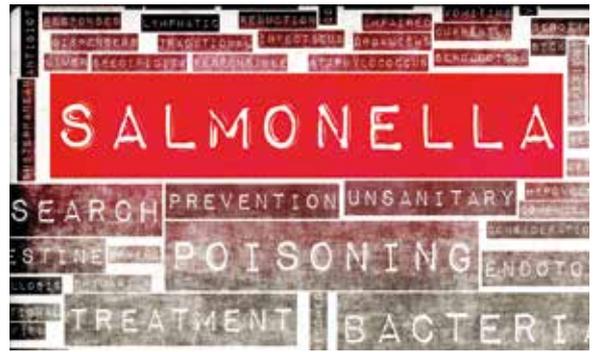
Within six to 72 hours after infection, fever and diarrhoea occur. Incubation periods of up to 16 days have been observed when exposed to low salmonella doses. The bacteria can be carried for several days and possibly many months.

How to protect yourself from infection while working in pest control

To prevent nosocomial infections, hand washing is essential as salmonella is found in both faeces and diarrhoea. If you are generally healthy, treatment includes drinking lots of water to prevent dehydration and prescribed antibiotics.

When conducting rodent control services, you should assume potential pathogen exposures exist and take appropriate precautions. The essential precaution is the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Companies should ensure all technicians receive training and then demonstrate an understanding of when to use PPE; what PPE is necessary; how to properly put on, use, take off, properly dispose of and maintain PPE; and the limitations of PPE.



In the US, pest management professionals should comply with the following protocol while on the job:

(*Tech ed note* – UK rodenticide labels require users to wear protective gloves to protect themselves against rodent-borne diseases and it is best practice to also wear protective coveralls. Although the following US guidance may seem detailed, do not forget that hantavirus is found in UK rodents and there is evidence of infection in UK PCOs! The virus is aerosolised, meaning we can breathe it in, so the US approach is a lot more relevant than some of us may think!)

- Avoid unprotected, direct physical contact with dead rodents.
- Wear appropriate to situation PPE when in direct contact with rodents (properly-fitted safety goggles, disposable gloves, disposable shoe covers or boots, a respirator with P3 filter and disposable fluid-resistant coveralls).
- Reusable PPE should be cleaned until visible soiling is removed, and then disinfected.
- While wearing PPE, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose after touching any contaminated material.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or use the bathroom while wearing PPE.
- Perform good hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand soap after removing PPE.
- Shower at the end of your workday, and leave all contaminated clothing and equipment at work.
- Never wear contaminated clothing or equipment outside the work area.

Additionally, technicians should safely remove PPE in sequence:

1. Clean and disinfect boots, if worn.
2. Remove boots or shoe covers.
3. Remove and dispose of coverall, if worn.
4. Remove goggles and respirator.
5. Clean and disinfect reusable goggles and respirator.
6. Remove and dispose of gloves.
7. Wash hands with soap and water.

Don't be exposed! Take care of yourself by eliminating your exposure to rodent borne pathogens with proper PPE.



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Goodnature A24 and hedgehogs – story so far

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In March 2018 The Independent online produced an article sensationalizing the use of the A24 rat & stoat trap in the UK, and its possible effect on an already dwindling population of hedgehogs.

In response to this article we have considered all information available in relation to the Goodnature A24 trap, in order to provide an unbiased perspective.

The Independent’s online article has some unrelated content, the first video reference bearing no relation to the A24 trap and simply highlighting a seemingly isolated incident of very cruel abuse of a hedgehog, with no link to use of the A24.

The UK Charity the British Hedgehog Preservation Society has been quoted with reference to the wire tunnel (an additional accessory, which is recommended for use at all times) saying the tunnel is below standard. However, in trials and results published by Scottish Government in their report ‘Hedgehog interactions with the Goodnature A24 trap’ 2018 we see a very different story. In summary, of the seventeen hedgehogs in the trials with the A24 trap set up in five different ways, there were no lethal interactions recorded.

The study carried out by the Scottish government shows that, in the trials they carried out using the A24 mounted at the recommended height and angle, the trap would not kill any of the 17 hedgehogs. The tested configurations of the A24 were: high set (30cm) with wire tunnel, low set (12cm) with wire tunnel, high set at 45

degrees (with wire tunnel), low set at 45 degrees (with wire tunnel) and finally mounted on the Goodnature stand (no mesh extension).

Another bold statement from the article was a claim that the hedgehog spines would get caught in the mesh. In the study no hedgehogs got their spines caught. The last line of data says it all – Number of trials where a trap would have been triggered by hedgehog (for all mesh fitted installations) – ZERO.

The Hedgehog charity also have a running online petition against the approval of the A24 which requests its approval is removed. The petition detail makes some unsubstantiated statements, saying there are ‘no reasonable precautions’ against catching hedgehogs. Such statements ignore the fact that the wire tunnel is recommended to be used with the trap. One could strike a balance and ask, which would you prefer, rat populations kept in check or uncontrolled rat colonies outcompeting certain UK non-target and protected species?

The issue is very emotive and it is accepted that the hedgehog is a very special and declining species.

With the trial data from the Scottish Government study we see that the way the trap is set up reduces the risk of it interacting with hedgehogs dramatically. Carefully planned methods, very specific detail, various set-ups and total care and consideration for the hedgehogs culminate in a fascinating result, that if set up correctly the A24 does not pose a significant risk to hedgehogs. Therefore, the government trials show solid evidence which is contrary to the beliefs

professed by contributors to The Independent article.

Goodnature consciously chose not to bring the meat-based lure over to the UK. The sweeter lure aimed to attract rats is sold with the A24 - a decision by Vance Paines of Goodnature, to give a more targeted approach and minimise the risk of any impacts on non-target species. The trap is not designed to target hedgehogs and Goodnature do not market their product as such.

Various anecdotal resources were considered in the Government trials, such as social media and internet references pertaining to the use of the A24 trap and dispatching hedgehogs. One of the unfortunate hedgehogs in an online clip was killed by the trap. However, no mesh was fitted and the installation was not in the UK. There is no denying that the A24 could kill a hedgehog, but with mesh modifications (recommended for use at all times), use by a responsible party, frequent checks, monitoring (e.g. wildlife cameras) the risk to hedgehogs and non-target species can be dramatically minimised.

The A24 trap has its clear benefits when used correctly and within recommended guidelines. Professional pest controllers are not indiscriminate killers and are trained to be ecologically aware.

As with all professional pest control products there is an element off risk and that is why they are used by trained professionals

On balance, The Independent article appears to shoot from the hip, with little factual content.

	High (30 cm)	Low (12 cm)	High 45 deg	Low 45 deg	Goodnature trap stand (no tunnel extension)
Number of trials	36	35	37	10	25
Hedgehog participations	46	44	53	13	35
Hedgehog hours	252+	251+	279	56	152
Number of trials where hedgehogs active	28 (81% of all trials)	29 (82% of all trials)	33 (89% of all trials)	9 (90% of all trials)	16 (64% of all trials)
N trials where trap acknowledged	18 (64% of active trials*)	22 (76% of active trials)	22 (67% of active trials)	8 (89% of active trials)	16 (100% of active trials)
N trials where trap exterior or tunnel extension touched	12 (43% of active trials)	21 (72% of active trials)	21 (64% of active trials)	8 (89% of active trials)	15 (94% of active trials)
N trials where extension entered or possibly entered	Between 7 & 10 (25% to 36% of active trials)	Possibly 6 (21% of active trials)	Between 8 & 10 (22% to 28% of active trials)	Between 2 & 4 (22% to 44% of active trials)	9 (56% of active trials)
N trials where tip of nose enters or possibly entered trap	1 (4% active trials)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	Between 2 & 4 (22% to 44% active trials)
N trials where trap would have been triggered by hedgehog	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	Between 1 & 4 (6% to 25% active trials)

*Active trials: trials in which a hedgehog emerged from the nest box



Safeguard against losses with appropriate product selection

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As pesticide regulations continually tighten, it is important that those currently available on the market are safeguarded with good stewardship practices, to avoid further losses of active ingredients.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the obvious place to start, according to industry experts. One of the primary steps towards this, that pest controllers can take, is to minimise chemical applications as part of an Integrated Pest Management approach.

“One of the easiest ways to reduce the amount of pesticide applied to a site is to ensure that the most effective product for the specific situation has been selected, to avoid repeat treatments,” says Richard Moseley, Bayer technical manager.

He goes on to explain the steps that pest controllers can take to identify the best product, first time. “As with any infestation, the pest species must first be identified. A good understanding of the target pest’s lifecycle and behaviour will help to narrow down the selection of products to one with an appropriate active ingredient (AI).

“Once a suitable AI is established, there will often be a variety of different formulations to pick from, and it can be tricky to tell the difference between some of these products to decide exactly which one will fit the bill.”

Generally, the AI provides a lethal dose necessary for control, but the formulation that ‘surrounds’ the AI is crucial to product efficacy. Formulations perform differently depending on the treatment scenario, including the location and the nature of the surface being targeted.

“For example, the formulation in AquaPy® holds a molecule in air suspension to knock-down insects while flying. But others are developed to hold the AI in a membrane or protective coating to slowly release the insecticide over time.

“There may be other situations where wettable powders, including Ficam W® could be more appropriate. These are particularly effective on porous surfaces, such as concrete or brick as the added water seeps away, leaving just the powder on the treated surface.”

Richard stresses the importance of checking the product label if there is any uncertainty around whether a product is right for the situation. “The areas of use, recommended species and any warnings will be listed here.

“A resistance management message will also be carried on many product labels, explaining the steps users can take to minimise the risk of this occurring. This is another important aspect to consider when choosing a product, especially when repeatedly treating one site.

“However, the real key to halting resistance before it starts is the periodic rotation of pesticides from different AI families,” he says.

“For example, if treating an insect infestation, a treatment programme could be made up of a product from the pyrethroid family, followed by a carbamate-based insecticide, finishing with a neonicotinoid.”

In addition to minimising the risk of resistance, rotation can also help to reduce the likelihood of bait aversion or shyness. But it is important to note that this should always be used as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme.

“A good IPM strategy should recognise that pest control isn’t solely about applying a pesticide and hoping the pests will disappear. Instead this should focus on prevention, considering all management practices and tools available,” says Richard.

“In-depth site surveys and proper cleaning are key aspects of IPM, and while choosing an appropriate formulation for the situation can help minimise product use, rotation is still essential for sustainable management.”

Implementing IPM practices and taking product formulations into careful consideration not only helps to steward pesticides correctly, but it can also benefit the pest controller’s bottom line.

“A well formulated product may cost a little extra in the first instance, and the planning around a treatment can take a few extra minutes, but this could save money in the long run.

“This could be seen in the form of reduced call backs, fuel, wear and tear on equipment, re-applications and paperwork, as well as reputation if first time control is successful,” adds Richard.



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State of the UK Barn Owl population – 2017

‘Generally, a good year, except on some isles and peninsulas’
Results from 38 independent groups collated by the Barn Owl Trust

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A crucial and iconic non-target species, the barn owl *Tyto alba*, around 90% of which are contaminated with anticoagulant rodenticides, has had a ‘generally good year’ in terms of its 2017 UK population according to the Barn Owl Trust.

This unique overview of last year’s breeding success is only possible thanks to the huge amount of work carried out by independent Barn Owl groups and projects across the UK. Authors of the report are particularly grateful to the 38 groups who provided their results for 2017. Between them, the contributors to this report monitored a staggering 6,955 potential nest sites and recorded 1,779 active nests.

General Summary

The data received from 38 monitoring schemes shows that the number of nesting pairs in the UK in 2017 was 17% above the average of all previous years (2013 - 2016) and the average number of young in the nest was 6.6% above. With a few exceptions, 2017 was a good year for Barn Owls although not a ‘bumper year’ (like 2014).

Across most of England and into mid Wales Barn Owls had a generally good to very good year. However, Barn Owls had a relatively poor year in West Galloway, West Cornwall, and the Isle of Wight. Those on Jersey experienced a very poor year and in Northern Ireland Barn Owls are still very scarce.

Regions

The North – very mixed results.

Barn Owls in Northumberland had an amazing year with nesting occupancy up by a staggering 161% and mean brood size 38% up – the highest values out of all the data contributors. The recorder in this area reported “the most successful year since at least 2006”.

Eastern coastal counties – average to good

Middle England and into Wales – overall a good year, very good in some areas

South Wales, Southern & SW England, IOW and Jersey – mixed results, some areas very poor

Just how many barn owls are in the UK?

The only reliable estimate of Barn Owl numbers in the UK was c. 4,000 pairs in the period 1995-97 (Project Barn Owl Report, 2000) and there is some evidence that numbers increased in the period 1997-2009, particularly in eastern England.

What conditions impact on barn owl populations?

Weather conditions and prey availability are two very important factors.

There can be little doubt that the unusually severe winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 reduced total population size, according to previous barn owl surveys. The winter-spring period of 2013-14 was so mild that field voles were even breeding in mid-winter, which probably helped barn owls that survived 2013 and young birds produced late in 2013.

With a mild winter followed by an early spring and a long and pleasant summer, 2014 turned out to be the warmest year ever recorded - according to the National Climatic Data Centre. Great weather happened to coincide with a peak year for small mammals and Barn Owls had a very productive year in many areas. Berkshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire and Warwickshire did particularly well with nesting occupancy 71 to 193% above normal. Brood sizes were phenomenal in many areas with records broken in Suffolk and Wiltshire. Broods in Somerset were, on average, 84% bigger than normal.

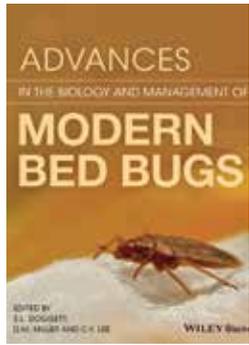
Overall, 2015 was a poor year for Barn Owls in the UK. Given that winter 2014/15, and 2015 itself, were generally mild it is most unlikely that the poor results were due to the weather but due to a general lack of prey. It is well known that annual variations in small mammal abundance are not synchronised across the whole country and that certainly seems to have been the case in 2015.

Sadly, 2016 was another poor year. Globally, 2016 was once again the warmest year ever recorded. Here in the UK, winter 15/16 was the third warmest and second wettest recorded since 1910. With few exceptions, such as November flooding thanks to Storm Angus, long-duration extreme weather events were not a major feature of 2016. Therefore, the observed temporal changes in nesting occupancy and brood sizes were probably more influenced by variations in small mammal (prey) abundance than by the weather.

Barn owls and responsible use of rodenticides

Guidance on controlling pest rodents and minimising risk to non-target species such as Barn Owls can be found on the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) UK stewardship regime website www.thinkwildlife.org where users can download copies of the “CRRU UK Code of Best Practice: Best Practice and Guidance for Rodent Control and the Safe Use of Rodenticides” and the “Environmental Assessment When Using Anticoagulant Rodenticides”.

No significant changes have been detected in barn owl liver residues of rodenticide between 2016 and a seven-year baseline. This comes from independent analysis by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH) of barn owl livers supplied from the Predatory Birds Monitoring Scheme, a citizen science project.



Advances in the Biology and Management of Modern Bed Bugs:

By S.L. Doggett, D.M. Miller & C.Y. Lee

Book Review

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Edited by leading bedbug researchers Stephen Doggett (Westmead Hospital, Australia), Dini Miller (Virginia Tech, USA) and Chow-Yang Lee (Universiti sains Malaysia), this is arguably the most important pest management text that money can buy in 2018.

Who is this book suitable for?

The key is in that one word in the book title and it is 'modern'. The book is therefore suitable for all who need their bedbug knowledge modernising and that's a good number of us. The last great reference available regarding bed bugs is the 1966 Usinger classic 'monograph of Cimicidae' and for those without access to scientific journals a lot has changed in the bedbug world since then! To say that *Advances in the Biology and Management of Modern Bed Bugs* (ABMMBB) is a welcome release is an understatement – it is an essential text for those serious about bedbugs, from pest controllers to field biologists, trainers to entomologists, students to researchers, this is the most up-to-date and detailed reference out there and represents a monument in the study of bedbugs.

The need for a new bedbug reference

To give an idea of the need for this book, the number of peer reviewed scientific publications from the years 2000 – 2016 spiked with over 494 released and these clearly needed bringing together with key points distilled. In undertaking such a mammoth task, the editors have pulled together over 60 authors (yes, sixty) to contribute 48 chapters of every conceivable aspect of bedbug biology and management. Being blunt, if you don't own a copy you run the risk of being out-of-date.

What are the main contents of interest to pest controllers?

The main sections of the book are:

- **The Global resurgence** (this resurgence has been poorly documented until now)

- **Impacts** (including not just dermatological effects and disease but also mental health and economic effects)
- **Bedbug biology** (a crucial section – updated knowledge of biology is essential for management)
- **Bedbug management** (arguably the section of most interest to pest controllers – covering prevention, detection & monitoring, non-chemical control, insecticide resistance, chemical control and more)
- **Control in specific situations** (a wealth of practical case-studies based on international experience, covering low-income housing, multi-unit housing, shelters, hotels, healthcare facilities, aircraft, cruise-ships & mass transport and even poultry housing)
- **Legal issues** (something we need to be much more aware of in the UK)
- **The future!** (gaze into the crystal ball of bedbug future...)

ABMMBB is well-illustrated with high-quality photographs of bedbugs themselves, bedbug activity, bedbug rearing equipment, heat-treatment equipment and monitors. Also included are distribution maps, data tables, graphs and particularly charming old postcards and posters!

Where to get your copy?

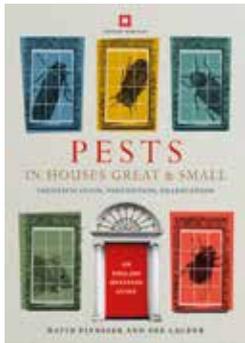
Any good book shop or online book seller should be able to provide this.

In summary, the 'pros' are countless with the only negative being the price tag which may put this out of reach of some pest control operators which is where a lot of this information needs to get to – those actually doing the job of bedbug control. Having said that, good training providers / technical advisors will update their own information based on this book and disseminate to users via workshops, pest control refresher training courses and technical advice.

Happy reading!

ISBN: 978-1-119-17152-2

Publisher: Wiley Blackwell, 2018



Pests in houses great & small identification, prevention, eradication

By David Pinniger and Dee Lauder

This is a simple yet fascinating guide to household pests whether the property be a large stately historic house or a modern home. Readers are taken on a journey through time by the authors which incorporates small chunks of information, examining pests and treatments from the past through to modern day – unsurprisingly the pests haven't changed too much!

First rate illustrations

Readers are provided with first-rate photographs, colour-coded case studies, highlighted 'key points' for each of the pests. Use of diagrams throughout adds to the interest of the guide, the front cover itself includes not only the contents but a 'House of pests' cut-away diagram pin-pointing where we might find that particular pest and its page reference. This makes it a convenient and quick access feature.

Simple identification photos with 'actual size' indication on each subtlety, add to the usability of this guide, make it an easy-to-use resource. The guide continues to help with accurate identification of various life stages and species, ranging from standard scavengers to specific pests and importantly the damage they cause. Readers are even treated to a 'new insect invaders' section, focused on currently lesser known potential pests, which may create future problems.

Details of some of the challenges in treating the areas in historic houses, collections and priceless items are covered. Such examples show that the use of harsh insecticides is just not possible due to degradation of the materials and possible human exposure, meaning that other ways and means have to be found. This is something to pay attention to when risk assessing and formulating a treatment plan.

Important case studies

Fascinating case studies are used to maximum effect, written in a brief but informative style with 'key lessons' summarizing the in-depth investigations required for some potentially very damaging scenarios. The case studies add credibility to the book. You can never surpass actual data and information from real life situations.

Integrated pest management

Integrated pest management (IPM) is another key focus throughout. The last section covering pest management helps with all aspects of IPM and how this is applied to this specialist world of preservation. A careful step-by-step process is used to look at various facets encountered in identifying and treating certain pests. It is known that prevention is key, but for these items it is imperative.

Another important element of the guide is when to call a professional. Again, for the general demographic of the book this is something which cannot be underrated and for us as professionals, never devalued.

This is a great handy guide for the seasoned pest professional (either treating this type of problem or premises with a special interest) and the householder alike. The question is, when is volume two released? More photos, case studies and strategy plans please.

Happy reading!

ISBN: 978-1-910907-24-5
 Publisher: English Heritage, 2018

Book Review

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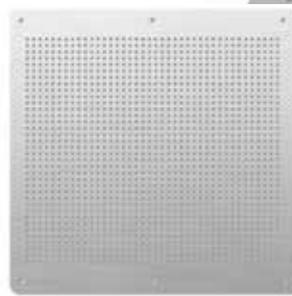
New Products

www.pestcontrolnews.com @pestcontrolnews facebook/pestcontrolnews

MOUSE GRILLE

A range of solid plate proofing plates designed to prevent rodent incursion through airbricks and similar access points. Produced in Aluminium to prevent weathering, these plates provide long lasting, tough and discreet protection.

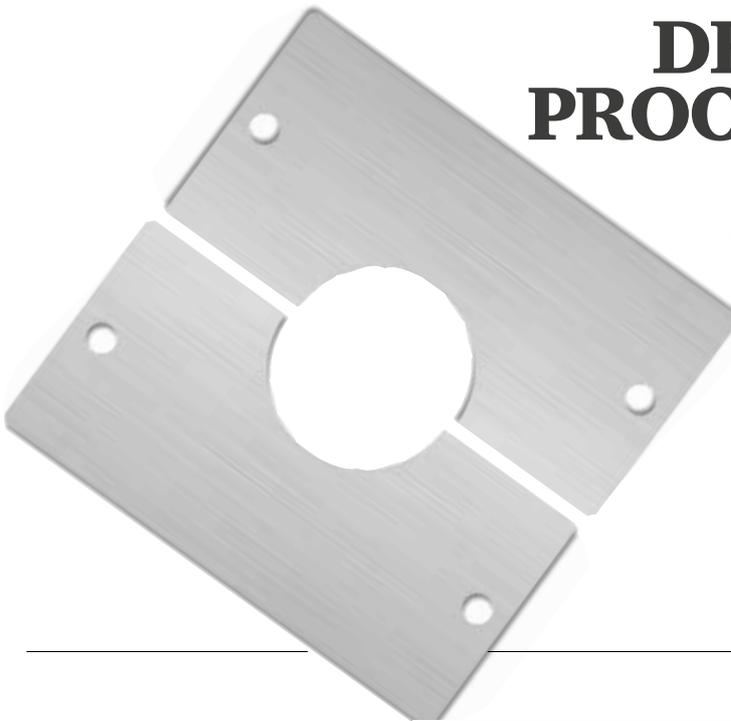
www.dudleyindustries.com



DEADLINE PIPE PROOFING PLATES

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www.dudleyindustries.com



NATTARO SCOUT

Nattaro Scout is a bed bug monitoring system for the professional pest control market. The monitor is easy to fit on the floor, under the bed frame or inside the bed between mattresses. The unique lure consists of synthetic pheromones that mimic a normal sized bedbug harbourage (aggregation). The construction is a pit fall monitor, where the bed bugs can climb in but not out.

www.edialux.com



Kit Maintenance

AR bulb duster

www.pestcontrolnews.com

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As the weather hots up and all traces of the ‘beast from the east’ disappear, all eyes are on what might be the next ‘pest from the west’ – hopefully a bumper wasp season!

In readiness for the summer peak in insect activity, we take a look at maintaining a new piece of dust application equipment.

The AR Bulb Duster is a brand-new hand-operated duster, the key feature being that the dust is placed in a powder chamber kept separately from the hand pump. A hand-held air bulb, which attaches to the powder chamber, is squeezed to expel dust through a flexible extension pipe. It features the 30cm flexible ‘stay put’ nozzle of the more familiar AR 8 system and comes supplied with a push-fit nozzle for accessing cracks & crevices. The insulated plastic tip enables it to be used for dusting electrical sockets & appliances etc. This is a very useful tool for anyone involved in bedbug treatments.

Care and maintenance

There are two very simple points to consider:

- Inspect for cracks and tears before use.
- Do not store in direct sunlight or in high temperatures for long periods.

Safety precautions

Aside from the two simple care and maintenance points, there are some straightforward safety considerations:

- Do not fill the bulb with any powder, liquid or gel.
- Direct dust or granules only at surfaces to be treated.
- Follow label instructions and wear recommended protection.
- Do not expose bulb to solvents or extreme heat.

Suggested uses

1. Dusting of wasp nests at close range locations such as air vent bricks and cavities.
2. Dusting of electrical sockets etc. for bedbugs.
3. Restricted access to cavities and other general uses such as structural voids, and ducting. Useful for diatomaceous earth (DE) dusting.
4. A specialised tip is included to help apply dust into restricted access areas.

www.killgerm.com/onlinecatalogue/ar-bulb-duster

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

DINNER 2018



BENELUX PEST™

This year the 8th biannual exhibition of Benelux Pest was held on April 25th in the NH Conference Centre Koningshof at Veldhoven, the Netherlands. It was the second time the one-day event was held at this location near Eindhoven.

Easy to reach by train, car or via Eindhoven Airport, visitors from Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and other countries attended the exhibition, which was initiated by Pest Control News. Rinus van Zanten, retired Managing Director of Killgerm Benelux and Yvonne van Gorp, Public Relations manager at Killgerm Benelux did a good job at organising the event.

In 2016 the exhibition was struck by bad weather which influenced the numbers of visitors. This year, just one day before our national Kings day, the weather was perfect and this certainly contributed to the record number of visitors and conference exhibitors of 488! It certainly is the most important meeting of the pest control industry in the Netherlands and Belgium. About 20% of the participants came from outside the Netherlands and Belgium, mainly from the UK and Germany. The registration desk saw at least 10 different nationalities checking in.

Most of the exhibitors were the well-known international exhibitors such as Killgerm, PestWest, BASF, Frowein, B&G, Syngenta, Kness, Agrisense, Bayer, Pelsis, Russel IPM and Bell Laboratories but also Dutch and Belgium companies were present. Tilmars Spouwsafe, Brandenburg Europe, Lodi Group, Wespenbeheer, Rodent Watch, Pestwatcher, Q-Chem BV and PestScan were present. With respect to education SPA Group and KAD, who presented their new programme and the new institute KOVA, showed their intentions on improving the knowledge level of the pest controllers.

Many new products were presented. More different biocides, especially in rodenticide products, based on well-known active ingredients, are coming in the market. This is the effect of the implemented biocide directive.

Several companies showed their electronic system on trapping mice and rats. The electronic traps are getting more and more sophisticated by

their added sensors to prevent false observations and to get more information on the climate system in the building, like temperature and humidity. Because Wi-Fi connection is sometimes not optimal several electronic trapping systems are connected by 4G to the computer system of the pest controller and the customer.

In other rooms, tired legs could come to rest by joining three lectures:

The first one was held by Dr. Sara Burt, IRAS, Veterinary Faculty, University Utrecht, on public motives to control pests. The second part of her lecture was on rat and mouse allergen in domestic houses. In the third part of her lecture she mentioned that rodents can play a role in distributing avian influenza.

Dr. Kai Sievert, Technical Manager Professional Management and Vector Control, Syngenta Switzerland, talked about Pro-Insecticides, the safest solutions in the food industry. In his lecture he demonstrated that baits like the advion gel products can be safely used in the food industry.

The final talk was presented by Dr. Thorsten Storck, Technical Manager BASF's Professional & Specialty Solutions (Germany). The title of his talk was: "The alternative of anticoagulant, remarkable results from the BASF lab". The English proverb "The proof of the pudding is in the eating" stands for the importance on the palatability of the rodent bait to become successful. In his talk he mentioned how BASF addresses that problem.

Eating, drinking and discussion are also important issues at meetings. That was frequently done during the exhibition in the restaurant area, at the "Happy Hour", sponsored by Bayer and at the PCN Walking Dinner. The 110 guests at the PCN dinner were musically entertained by the Berkley Brothers and the magician Marc Woods showed his dexterity to his surprised audience.

Summarising Benelux Pest 2018: the best pest exhibition in the Netherlands!



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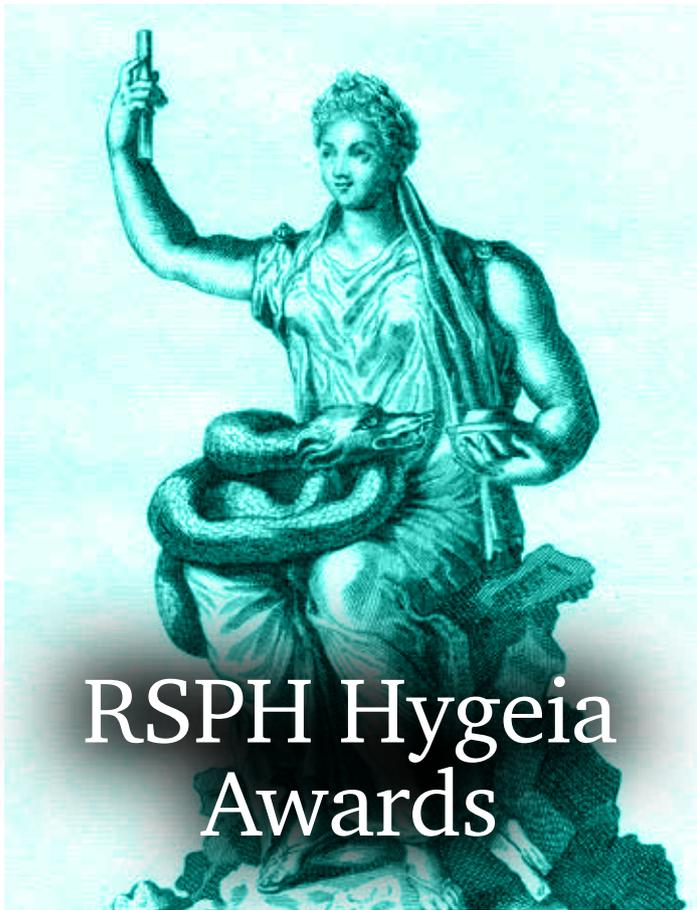


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RSPH Hygieia Awards

RSPH will soon be selecting their Awards winners for 2018. They have a number of awards for candidates who achieve the highest marks in some of the RSPH qualifications. This includes the candidate who achieves the highest scores in the L2 Award / Certificate in Pest Management. Last year this was won by James McKenna of Rentokil. The awards will be presented at their AGM on 13th September.

From this year onwards the awards will be known as the RSPH Hygieia Awards. Hygieia is the Greek goddess of health.

As well as awards for candidates, RSPH will also be presenting an Award for Excellence in Learner Support. This award goes to the tutor or trainer who has made a real difference to the learning experience of their RSPH candidates. RSPH will therefore require nominations from centres and learners in order to select the winner of this award. So if you were trained by a really inspirational tutor who made the subject of pest control come alive for you (including the associated legislation and health & safety!), then let us know. Nominations can be made through a page on our website which will be up and running soon. Please note that we can only accept nominations for trainers who work for RSPH-approved centres.

The last RSPH update referred to the review of the RSPH Level 2 Award in Using Aluminium Phosphide Safely for the Management of Vertebrate Pests. This review has now been completed and occupational exposure limits and threshold limit values, monitoring of phosphine levels and guidance on the use of water for cleaning equipment have now been included in the specification.

As well as signing off the review of this qualification, the last Sector Advisory Panel meeting also agreed some minor changes to the content of the RSPH Level 2 Award and Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management. The content legislation relating to the use of warfarin for rabbit control has been removed as this is no longer approved and added the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Legislation relating to food hygiene and biocidal products will be updated in the content to ensure that the latest versions of this legislation is covered.



The Pest Controller's Nightmare?

Risk Assessments, made a little easier...

Our experience over the years is that some pest controllers struggle when it comes to risk assessments and that's not entirely surprising, as we have to do a lot more than most other trades and professions.

We deal with many different 'places of work', each one needing a Risk Assessment for human safety, whether site-specific or generic for that type of premises.

We also use many different products, most regarded as 'hazardous substances', so each requiring a COSHH Assessment.

And now, if we use anticoagulant rodenticides, we also have to produce Environmental Risk Assessments for every site where we might be potentially causing a risk to the environment.

A blizzard of paperwork, which many struggle with. But all necessary if we want to stay the right side of the law.

To make life easier, the NPTA have developed a day's training course on how to deal with this and to make things more interesting, the course is at the Church Farm Training Centre for pest controllers near Basingstoke.

Otherwise known as 'The Rat Farm', this training venue has hundreds of rats and mice running freely in large pens that allow students to get 'up close and personal', plus a series of specially-built pest control scenarios, where students can test their hazard-spotting skills.

The next courses are scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd October, so if you are interested, contact the NPTA Office at office@npta.org.uk to book your place.



Stay protected.
Always look for
the logo.



LEAVE IT TO THE PROFESSIONALS.



In my opinion, government and regulators often run on similar lines

to any management executive. If it isn't broken then there are lots of other more pressing things to do rather than try and 'fix' it. But when it is broken (or at least appears to be with big press headlines) then the tendency for the knee-jerk reaction kicks in and we get unworkable regulation that makes our lives difficult.

A good example of this is the response to the shooting of a bird in a supermarket which was splashed over the press. Questions were asked in Parliament and we now have more restrictions from Defra over what can be shot or not.

This is the same with the use of pesticides. Regulation and restriction generally come out of problems that have arisen because someone hasn't done their job properly, either because they are cutting corners or just incompetent.

I have seen the codes of practice for pest control from the main retail companies get tighter and tighter over the years in

Director of Precision Pest Management Solutions and BPCA Executive Board Member, Mike Ayers, shares his thoughts on why it's now more important than ever for BPCA members to mobilise and consider the bigger picture of pest control.

response to failures to do the job properly. The most demanding on us as pest controllers were the 48-hour follow up regimes imposed by one, then other, retailers. This isn't technically necessary but was a punitive imposition because pest controllers weren't doing their jobs properly and not following up either at all or well enough to deal with the infestation. The cost of this blanket imposition to us as pest control providers has been enormous over the years. The problem here is not how often the technician visits but what they do each time.

In my job as a consultant, as well as a practising pest controller, I come across infestations where the follow-ups have been conducted to the letter of the 'law' but the mouse infestation has been persistent and getting out of hand. One site I visited had had over 150 visits over the year and nearly as many the previous year. This wasn't good for anyone

and runs a serious risk of generating tolerance to the active ingredients. We managed to clear the problem with a thorough weekly visit over two to three months. It is no wonder that resistance builds up because, remembering my lessons from John Bull of Rentokil, mice become resistant to poor service first and the chemicals soon after.

Fortunately I think the retail companies are seeing the light and the codes of practice are becoming less proscriptive on what we should do and more interested in the result. There are significant commercial benefits to being competent. Technicians work safer, more efficiently and more effectively. The competent pest controller will generally win and retain more contracts even at a higher and probably more realistic price.

As a board member I can say that BPCA, via the Committees and Working groups, is committed to improving the professionalism

of the membership to enable its members to stand out from the crowd. We want to ensure that truly professional pest controllers are the first choice for those in need of pest control services. By delivering services 'properly' the pest control industry will prove more profitable, work safer, reduce the risk of resistance and further regulation.

It is important that members are equipped to be able to use language and visual aids to support this position, and is why the "Be Protected. Professionally." campaign was created. Members should look to engage the BPCA logo in all that they do, but more than that, convey to the customer what being protected, professionally means.

To amplify our messages I encourage you to consider hosting the information below in and around your company's presence, online and offline, and in conversations with customers. But, most of all, please consider the reasons why professionalism is so important to our industry – to ensure we can continue, and develop, our role in society of protecting public health with the appropriate 'tools' for the job.

BE PROTECTED. PROFESSIONALLY.

- Pass regular audits against BS EN16636 for pest management (from Jan 2019)
- Abide by our strict industry Codes of Best Practice
- Provide detailed advice on pest prevention measures
- Perform a survey before starting work or providing a final quote
- Have at least £2 million public and products liability insurance
- Protect staff, customers and members of the public through risk and COSHH assessments
- Only employ technicians who meet or exceed the industry standard qualifications

Find out more by visiting www.bpca.org.uk/beprotected

➔ www.pestcontrolnews.com @pestcontrolnews facebook/pestcontrolnews



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What can the Pest Control Industry Learn from the Cambridge Analytica Scandal?

Hot on the heels of our February article on GDPR Compliance, data and misuse of data are in the headlines again. The Cambridge Analytica scandal exposed by journalists last month is showing no signs of it falling out of the media circus. Indeed, it would be hard to miss the frenzy of compliance e mails from the world and its dog over the last month.

A Brief Summary

To put it into context - a researcher created a personality quiz app to be marketed and downloaded via Facebook. A series of questions were asked by the app in order to create a personality profile. Downloading the app gave the researcher access to the Facebook users profile so it could see information which had been posted by the user. More controversially it also gave the researcher access to data of the Facebook User's friends. The data was then passed to Cambridge Analytics in breach of Facebook's Terms and Conditions. Cambridge Analytica then used the data to target specific groups of users with aggressive political advertisements. Once this was discovered by the UK media, Cambridge Analytica's CEO resigned and US Congress called Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook CEO to The House to answer questions about unauthorised data sharing and potential manipulation of the Presidential Election.

Why is this relevant?

While no company in the pest control industry has access to the wealth of volunteered data that Facebook (or indeed other social media sites) is privy to, there are lessons to be learned in every industry that utilises, holds

and shares electronic data. Whilst the whole GDPR issue was originally I am sure aimed at civil servants and such like leaving data sticks or lap tops on trains which contained reams of personal information, you can see how the government may well use this as yet another regulatory stealth tax in fines etc for the unwary.

The public impression of the Cambridge Analytica scandal is that Facebook either allowed data to be wilfully misused data for monetary gain or demonstrated apathy in how data they gathered, was distributed by third parties. When a business or individual volunteers its information to a business they place a level of trust in that organisation. Given the recent spotlight on data, they have also begun to question whether that trust is well placed.

How to avoid similar issues

- Ensure that the data your company collects is lawfully processed in line with GDPR guidelines.
- Be aware of how your business uses data it gathers first hand, in marketing or advertising campaigns and elsewhere
- Understand who your data sharing partners are, whether that is a web, search engine provider or relevant third party as provided by your mailing lists or customer information.
- Where possible, store data in an anonymised form particularly if this is sensitive data such as customer financial information, names and addresses
- Once your partners have been identified, examine the content of your agreements

with them.

In assessing the content of the agreements, pay particular attention to the following:

- Whether information shared with partners be distributed to third parties by them
- What the partner is allowed to do with data that you have shared with them e.g. can it be used for advancement of their own business
- The necessity of the data being shared, to the functioning of the relationship with your data sharing partner

How to deal with evidence of misuse or breach of data:

- Seek legal advice immediately with regard to mitigating the damage
- Where possible, contact each person or business whose data has been misused or breached
- Explain precisely what data was involved and how the situation occurred
- Take all necessary measures to prevent similar scenarios from reoccurring

Should you require any advice regarding existing and future data sharing agreements or any other legal issues please contact:

Should you require any advice or assistance in ensuring your business is compliant with the Act or any other legal issues please contact the author Giles Ward at Milners Solicitors giles.ward@milnerslaw.com - 0113 3801 850/07789 401411.

Your guide to the pest control 2018 training dates



Killgerm Training run courses nationwide offering different types of courses for different levels of experience and knowledge. Details of all course dates and locations are available online at www.killgerm.com/pest-control-training-calendar; there is also a full list in the Killgerm catalogue on pages 223-225. For further information or to book your place on a course call **01924 268445** or email training@killgerm.com.

NORTHERN COURSES 2018

JUNE 2018

Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control

12th June 2018, Ossett

Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control

6th June 2018, Doncaster

7th June 2018, Crewe

JULY 2018

Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control

17th July 2018, Ossett

Pest Control Refresher for EHO's

18th July 2018, Ossett

AUGUST 2018

Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control

14th August 2018, Ossett

SOUTHERN COURSES 2018

JUNE 2018

Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control

26th June 2018, Plymouth

JULY 2018

Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control

24th July 2018, Bristol

Insect Control

25th July 2018, Bristol

Safe Use of Pesticides

26th July 2018, Bristol

To book visit - www.killgerm.com



BPCA PROGRAMMES UNTIL SEP 2018

ADVANCED TECHNICIAN IN PEST MANAGEMENT*

- 26 June – London
- 26 September – North West

CERTIFIED TECHNICAL INSPECTOR*

- 27 June – London

BECOMING A FIELD BIOLOGIST COURSE

- 25 September – North West

CERTIFIED FIELD BIOLOGIST*

- 28 Jun – London
- 27 Sep – North West

GPC (RSPH LEVEL 2 IN PEST MANAGEMENT)

- September 16, Stafford
- October 21, Stafford
- December 9, Stafford
- Or study online (12-month licence).

URBAN BIRD CONTROL

- July 6, Stafford
- September 14, Stafford
- October 23, Derby

ATPM EXAMS: MORE DATES ADDED. CHECK BPCA.ORG.UK/TRAINING FOR DETAILS.

ALUMINIUM PHOSPHIDE

- 17-18 October, Stafford

INSECT IDENTIFICATION

- 24 October, Derby

BED BUG CONTROL

- 11 July, Preston
- 10 October, Derby

PRACTICAL VERTEBRATE TRAPPING

- 4 July, Stafford
- 12 September, Stafford
- 14 November, Stafford

PRACTICAL INSECT CONTROL

- 5 July, Stafford
- 13 September, Stafford
- 15 November, Stafford

*exam only

MORE DATES AND COURSES ONLINE AT WWW.BPCA.ORG.UK/TRAINING

To book visit www.bpca.co.uk



June 7, 2018

RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management -

Day 1 - 7th June 2018

Day 2 - 8th June 2018

Day 3 - 14th June 2018

Day 4 - 15th June 2018

Day 5 - 21st June 2018

Day 6 - 22nd June 2018

June 7, 2018

RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management -

Day 1 - 7th June 2018

Day 2 - 8th June 2018

Day 3 - 14th June 2018

Day 4 - 15th June 2018

Day 5 - 21st June 2018

Day 6 - 22nd June 2018

June 28, 2018

RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management

To book visit - www.pestsolution.co.uk

June 28, 2018

RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management

July 12, 2018

RSPH Level 2 Award in the safe use of Rodenticides

September 13, 2018

RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management -

Day 1 - 13th September 2018

Day 2 - 14th September 2018

Day 3 - 20th September 2018

Day 4 - 21st September 2018

Day 5 - 27th September 2018

Day 6 - 28th September 2018

September 13, 2018

RSPH Level 2 Certificate in Pest Management -

Day 1 - 13th September 2018

Day 2 - 14th September 2018

Day 3 - 20th September 2018

Day 4 - 21st September 2018

Day 5 - 27th September 2018

Day 6 - 28th September 2018



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