MARCH 2023

PCN

PEST CONTROL NEWS®

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PEST CONTROL INDUSTRY

ISSUE 133

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Bitesize...

The future of LED boards 06

To mark the launch of their new LED glueboard, we talked to PestWest's Product Design Engineer Andrew Nulty, discussing what makes the LED sticky board so special, how the boards are developed and what the future holds for PestWest®.

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KILLGERM WELCOMES JOHN RABY TO THE TEAM

John Raby has joined Killgerm as their new Area Sales Manager for South Yorkshire, East Midlands and East Anglia.

John, first started working in the pest control industry over 11 years ago, starting at Rentokil where he carried out a variety of roles from Technician, Surveyor, Team Leader and Senior Operations Manager. He then moved on to work for Trapinator, to launch Doc Traps in the UK pest control market,

John says, 'I'm really looking forward to taking on this role and I hope my experiences will help me support Killgerm customers wherever possible.'

www.pestcontrolnews.com/news

KILLGERM LAUNCH 2023 CATALOGUE

Killgerm is dedicated to focussing on the future of their customer's more than ever this year. Along with their service offering which includes a dedicated technical hotline, a technical team bursting with knowledge and highly qualified area sales managers, Killgerm are focussed on working with their customers on a day to day basis.

Are you heading to a Killgerm workshop? Reflect on your day with Killgerm and look out for the mirror of messages!

What's puzzling you in 2023? We would love to see pictures from your day, and the interesting pests you find. Go to Killgerm.com for more information.

www.pestcontrolnews.com/news

BASF WELCOMES LAURENCE BARNARD AS COUNTRY BUSINESS MANAGER FOR PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIALITY SOLUTIONS

Leading pest control solutions manufacturer, BASF, has appointed industry expert Laurence Barnard as its new Country Business Manager for Professional and Speciality Solutions, it has been announced. Laurence joins the business from Killgerm Chemicals UK, where he held the position of Area Sales Manager for seven years, after acting as Marketing Manager at the British Pest Control Association for five years prior. Having also worked as a pest control technician for many years, Laurence also brings years of practical pest management experience to the role.

Speaking of his new position at BASF, Laurence commented: "I am delighted to begin a new chapter at BASF, working alongside the team to lead the way in pioneering pest control solutions in both the professional and rural sectors."

"Having been in the industry for most of my career, I am proud to live and breathe all things pest control, and the move from Killgerm to BASF felt like the next natural step for me to make. I'm looking forward to getting stuck in and will be on the road attending several events in the coming months, so do come and say hello if you see me out and about!"

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NEW TECHNICAL ADVISORS FOR NPTA

The NPTA are delighted to announce that we have recruited two new Technical Support Officers Grahame Turner and Georgina Bail.

Steve Hallam NPTA's Chief Operating Officer said we welcome both Georgina and Grahame to the NPTA and we look forward to enhancing the support offered for the benefit of all our members.

Georgina and Grahame will be at all the 'On the Road days' around the country meeting members and supporters and are available to offer support to members when required.

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REST IN PEACE JOHN!

It is with great sadness to announce the death of John Hope, who died in hospital on Sunday 19th February after a short illness.

John has worked in the pest control industry for many years, five of which he was an integral part of the NPTA. He delivered training, quality technical support and guidance throughout his career, and most recently launched his own business, ACT (Auditing Consultancy Training). a pest control consultancy. We send condolences to his family at this sad time.

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ORKIN EXPANDS INTO THE NORTH WEST WITH THE ACQUISITION OF PESTPROOF

US-based Rollins Inc, best known for its subsidiary pest control brand, Orkin, has again demonstrated its ability to find key acquisition targets, and so expand its presence in the UK. During December 2022 the company finalised the acquisition of Pestproof Ltd, based in Failsworth, Manchester.

Pestproof was established in 1993 by Steve Ivell and David Harrison. The company offers a full range of pest and bird control services, in addition to specialist cleaning and washroom hygiene services. A complete pest prevention package is offered to customers ranging from domestic householders through to leading high street companies, such as Tesco and M&S, across the North West of England.

This acquisition further expands the Orkin presence in the UK following rapidly on the heels of the acquisition of NBC Environment and Europest during 2022. PestProof is just the latest addition to the growing number of Orkin companies in the UK. This began with the acquisition of Safeguard Pest Control in 2016. Since then the AMES Group, Kestrel Pest Control, Enviropest, Baroque Pest Services, the Guardian Group, Albany Environmental, Van Vynck Environmental, IPM, NBC Environment and Europest have all been added to the Safeguard/Orkin family of businesses. We are looking forward to seeing Mark in the rest of the series and wish him the best of luck!

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INVASIVE SPECIES WEEK

What are invasive non-native species?
Over 2,000 plants and animals have been introduced to GB from all over the world by people. These are known as non-native species. Most are harmless, indeed the majority of our agricultural species (wheat, barley, sheep etc) are not native to GB, but around 10-15% become invasive non-native species which spread and have a harmful impact. Invasive non-native species are one of the top five drivers of global biodiversity loss. Here in GB they threaten the survival of native wildlife, damage our natural ecosystems, cost the economy nearly £2 billion a year, and can even harm our health and interfere with activities we enjoy.

What is Invasive Species Week?
Each year organisations across the UK, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man work together to raise awareness of the impacts of invasive non-native species and the simple things that everyone can do to help protect the environment.

How can I take part?
The next Invasive Species Week will take place from the 15th - 21st May 2023. Email us to join our mailing list for details. If you'd like to take part, visit our supporter page for suggestions and free materials to help you.

www.pestcontrolnews.com/news

BASF LAUNCHES NEW MONITORING PASTE TO HELP PEST CONTROLLERS DETECT EARLY SIGNS OF RODENT ACTIVITY

Leading pest control solutions manufacturer, BASF, is launching a non-toxic Monitoring Paste to enable pest controllers to detect early rodent activity, it has announced.

Monitoring Paste is a non-toxic soft block formulation, developed by BASF, based on the highly palatable, award-winning rodenticide Selontra®, but without the active cholecalciferol. The 14-gram block features a pre-made hole for quick and easy securing and is complete with a perforated wrap to allow the aromas to escape. It is formulated not to contain any of the eight big food allergens: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat and soybean. An essential tool for early-stage rodent detection, Monitoring Paste helps prevent an infestation establishing, so that pest controllers can be assured that premises are monitored, which will improve their response time to rodent activity and also help in the planning of an effective treatment programme.

Laurence Barnard, Country Business Manager for Professional & Speciality Solutions at BASF, said: "We're delighted to introduce our new Monitoring Paste to the market. It provides pest controllers with another valuable product in their toolbox, allowing them to work more quickly and efficiently, and treat infestations as quickly as possible before they are fully established.".

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Interview - The future of LED glue boards

To mark the launch of their new LED glueboard, we talked to PestWest's Product Design Engineer Andrew Nulty, discussing what makes the LED sticky board so special, how the boards are developed and what the future holds for PestWest®.

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1. Can the regular Chameleon® Range sticky boards be used for the PestWest LED series?

A: No, they cannot be used for the PestWest LED series, for various reasons. First of all, they will not physically fit, as the sticky board used in e.g., the Chameleon Qualis, is 12% larger. Additionally, these new boards are centrally dividable, meaning each replacement glue board gives two usages in certain models. So, it is basically a lot more environmentally friendly, compared to the traditional Chameleon® Range glue board, as ⅓ of it had to go to waste whenever it was used for the Chameleon® Sirius.

2. What makes this new LED sticky board so special?

A: Due to the fact that UV LED tubes operate much cooler than traditional UV fluorescent tubes, a specifically formulated adhesive coating is required to achieve optimised performance: Within traditional UV fly traps, the UV fluorescent tubes generate heat, so that the adhesive on the board gets 'sticky' enough to retain insects, but not too fluid, because otherwise it would literally run off the sticky board. Meanwhile, the heat generated by UV LED tubes is too insignificant to repeat the same process, which is why PestWest has done extensive research in order to create a dedicated sticky board, optimised to work with LED technology and the Quantum® X range in particular. To achieve maximum efficacy, it is vital that only the dedicated PestWest LED sticky board is used for all PestWest LED models!

3. Please tell me more about the development of the dedicated PestWest LED sticky boards.

A: Sure. Throughout extensive 'fly catch performance tests' at an external institute, it has been brought to light that the insect retention of the existing glue board was insufficient at this point and therefore, it was not an option for us to bring the LED series to market with the same glue boards as the traditional Chameleon® units. Consequently, we invested into further research & development and the successful outcome of it is a dedicated, perfectly suitable sticky board, where the adhesive has the appropriate properties.

4. Which PestWest units can these LED sticky boards be used for?

A: The dedicated PestWest LED sticky boards can be used for the Chameleon® Qualis, Chameleon® Sirius X and On-Top Pro 2 X and will be used on most of the range moving forwards apart from specialist and some decorative units. The Chameleon® EXG X will have a separate sticky board due to its dimensions and material requirements.

5. How about the Quantum X LED tubes, can they be used for all PestWest LED units?

A: Yes, that is the case at the moment and is an advancement from the traditional Chameleon® Range, as e.g., the Chameleon® Sirius and the Chameleon® EXG could previously not use the same type of UV fluorescent tube. Further, we are aiming to utilise these dedicated consumables for as many future units as possible.

6. Which units will be launched next?

A: After launching the Sirius X, On-Top Pro 2 X and EXG X successfully in spring 2023, there will be an IP66 rated unit following in summer 2023. Afterwards, we fill focus on the development of a suspended model and various others – watch this space!

Marketing What Not to Do

With the increase of web-based content, marketing and advertising, the internet can often feel like a minefield. However, we are here to help, with some helpful tips as to what NOT to do when navigating the often-complicated online world with your business.

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- **Don't delete negative comments or reviews.**
  - o No matter which sector you are in, or how good of a service you offer, unfortunately negative comments or reviews come with the territory. While some may seem unfair, or they might have a negative effect on your business, it is very important to not remove or delete these comments. Instead, take a step back and ask yourself:
  - **Do I know which issue this review relates to?**
  - **Are the same negative comments occurring from different people?**
  - **Is this review truthful or honest?**
  - **Are different reviews coming from the same accounts?**

  While receiving negative comments or reviews may be incredibly frustrating, it is best to remain professional and polite when replying. If the review is regarding a negative experience a customer may have had with your business reply quickly and politely with a message like: "Thankyou for your review. I am very sorry to hear you feel that the customer experience you have received is not up to our usual high standards. Please contact (email address) or (telephone) and we can discuss further how to rectify the situation." This shows the initial reviewer and other potential customers that you are proactive and keen to rectify any issues that may have occurred, while also making the issue private. If the issue is rectified with a happy customer, you could ask the customer to add this to their review. Not everything can go right all the time in business, but how you handle things when things do go wrong can be a great way to mend your relationship with that customer and win back potential repeat custom.

- **Don't spend money on advertising or digital tools without prior research.**
  - o The idea of getting your business and advertising in front of as many eyes as possible might sound exciting, but before you part with your cash on expensive google or social media advertising, you might what to consider:
  - **Who your target audience is.**
  - **What are their demographics – Where are they? How old are they? What else are they interested in?**
  - **How they use the internet.**

  Having a clearer idea of who your audience is will be helpful in getting your digital advertising in front of the right people. Spending time in the field, you might have a good idea as to who your customer is already, but there are a number of free tools that can help you get an even more clearer view of your audience. Google Analytics is a free tool from Google that allows you to see who is visiting your website, where they are, how long they are spending on your site and why they are, including their interests, age and gender. It can also give you an idea as to what people are looking at on your site, and which services they may be more interested in. All the major social networking tools also have useful and free analytics tools, which will helpfully guide you in your company marketing.

- **Don't post your personal views that don't relate to your business or industry.**
  - o While the internet can be a great place to have discussions and debates regarding your views on things like politics, religion, and your personal life, it might be best to not have them linked to your business accounts. Affiliating your business with a particular political group, for example, might be seen as controversial to some, and may cause you to receive some negative comments or even press, which could be harmful to your business.

- **Don't miss out on your competitor's marketing.**
  - o Competitor research is essential in any industry. Keep an eye on what your local and national competitors are posting online. What is working for them? What is gaining traction? What hadn't worked for them and how would you do it better? Where appropriate, it might be seen as a good idea to even engage in the content yourself., wishing them a happy new year, or congratulating someone on a recent work anniversary or retirement.

- **Don't post pictures of dead animals.**
  - o While it may be tempting to post about your "best kills" or a particularly successful job, it may be a good idea to refrain from posting images of dead animals. This may attract criticism from groups outside the industry, or some might find images of dead animals appearing on their timeline to be disturbing. Most people are aware of what the industry does, and positive reviews or written content might be a better way of promoting your business.

- **Don't be a lone wolf.**
  - o Networking is a great way to not only market your business via word of mouth, but also to gain more knowledge and insights into the Pest Control industry. There are a number of networking events that occur across the country all year round, some of which are complimentary. For example, Killgerm offer a number of complimentary Breakfast Meetings across the country, which feature guest speakers, a chance to get to know your industry peers and even a complimentary cooked breakfast!

For more information on killgerm's breakfast meeting, visit - **https://www.killgerm.com/news/breakfast-meetings/**

Mark Butler interview

Pest Control News reports that industry stalwart Mark Butler is leaving Killgerm. Mark is a familiar, respected and highly experienced face in the industry. He has provided a huge amount of training to Killgerm customers in the last 15 years. Mark's career began over 40 years ago, from when he made his first foray into pest control with Rentokil. Here our technical editor Matt Davies quizzes Mark about the highs and lows of pest control...

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You've provided a vast amount of training in pest control – what is the best training experience that you have had? Perhaps a particular course or presentation sticks in your mind...

You're right Matt, I've done a shed load of training in my 40 years in the industry and clearly I can't remember all of them but perhaps the oddest venue was on board a ferry whilst it sailed between ports. The attending ships crew were all seated whilst I had to find my sea legs pretty quickly as I had to stand for the duration of the course (and crossing).

Do you have any training course mishaps to confess to? (Tech ed: I do remember working with you during a power cut!)

Yes indeed. You and I, not once, but twice, undertook a day's training at Ossett in which both started like any others but a short period in, there were major power cuts which ended up lasting most of the day. To demonstrate our true professionalism (or stupidity) we completed the training in the old-fashioned way, without the comfort of powerpoint. Armed only with our knowledge of course topics and a flipchart we bizarrely completed the training in the gloom and in competition with all the intruder alarms that had been set off.

In a previous role, we used to use hotel function rooms for training and at that time, we had access to jars of live insects, including several species of moth. At each event, we would request candidates not to open the lids of the jars containing moths but it was always too late.

We want to know about some of the glamourous...and less so training venues that you have worked at. Can you tell us something about that?

Glamourous and pest control training are not usually linked together. That said, I have done training in a very, very upmarket hotel in Kuala Lumpur and in many a plush corporate conference rooms but normally the venues are a bit more "down to earth". At the other end of the scale, I have trained operators in small on-site rest rooms along with a never-ending stream of other staff members coming in for a brew and being unable to stop themselves entering into the dialogue. Training in shipping containers and in freezing cold warehouses have also been a feature. On one occasion I was forced to project onto a corrugated metal wall which had the effect of making all who looked at it feel dizzy.

Who had the most influence on you in terms of your experience?

There are two industry characters who I would say made me think deeply about how I approached my work.

Firstly there is John Charlton who is sadly no longer with us. John was vastly experienced and carried huge knowledge of all things pest control. John was also a master at getting even with people who had annoyed him. This was something else I learnt whilst working with John.

I can't claim to have been solely influenced by John as Moray Anderson also featured greatly in my learning curve. Moray is moulded from the university system and is a great believer in dealing only in facts. Both of them enjoy a beer too.

Do you have any tips for those interested in developing their pest control skills?

Yes. Carefully read all available technical articles, books etc.

Become comfortable with scientific names and legislation.

Observe other operators and be able to recognise their good and bad habits.

Hone your skills in the field and not behind a desk.

Where do you see the industry going over the next 5 – 10 years?

No comment! Only joking.

It will be a challenge I think with diminishing chemical products / techniques and the physiological and behavioural changes we are seeing with both rats and mice. That said, the industry will have to mobilise around the

available techniques which will undoubtedly be bolstered by innovations such as remote monitoring/trapping of rodents and the technological advances in fly killers such as Killgerm's "fly Detect". The industry won't disappear, quite the opposite but operators will have to "up-skill" to ensure success. One thing that won't change is the fundamental requirement of pest control operators to understand the importance of integrated pest management and be able to apply it.

The organisations surrounding the industry such as manufactures, suppliers, trade associations and those who offer training and exams will also have to "upskill" too to both lead the industry and to be able to reflect its needs.

What has been your biggest challenge during your career?

The biggest management challenge was in a previous role with a large pest control company. I was placed in charge of the Field Biologist team in the North of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The team had just been cut from 11 to 7 yet the volume of work remained the same. During that period I called in just about every favour that I was owed in order to complete the workload.

From a pest control viewpoint, I was heavily involved in the foot and mouth crisis in 2001. Our task was to perform rat control at infected farms and dangerous contact farms whilst observing strict protocols relating to control measures. Whilst very challenging, this work was very rewarding as it was pure pest control. Another challenge during this campaign was dealing with the farmers, some who were angry and some who were completely defeated after losing their stock.

Do you have any pest control 'horror stories?'

No more than most. That said I once inspected a large brewery and identified 13 different pest species in the first half hour on site.

Tell us about your early career and particularly your role in the Killgerm Technical Department

My career started on March 1st 1983 as a Rentokil Serviceman working on Tyneside. I progressed via Field Biologist and Technical Support Manager before joining Killgerm in 2008. Being able to experience the industry from a different vantage point kicked-off another learning curve. At Killgerm I was very fortunate to be surrounded by good professional colleagues.

What did you do before you got into the industry?

I worked at a Supermarket called "Fine Fare" for those old enough to remember. I was "Assistant Manager Designate" which meant nothing at all. I think my store manager did have high hopes for me once but I soon disappointed him. Being confined to a single place of work was not for me.

What job would you have done if you hadn't been successful in the pest control industry?

Definitely not a Supermarket manager.

So, make us all jealous – what are your next moves?

It's complicated but Initially I want to simply have a short break and then look to pick up just a few days work a month, to keep my hand in as it were.

What will you miss the most about the industry?

The people (or some of the people anyway) and in a strange way trying to find sensible ways to accommodate all the changes we have seen with our industry.

Have you managed to get to the 'straight edge'?!

Cheeky! NEXT.

Now to the best bit. Your knowledge and expertise regarding real quality beers is legendary. What are you going to be sampling tonight?

Matt, you know that I am simply a "hop-head". The more hops you can stuff into a beer the better. You can rest assured that when faced with a beer choice, I'll always select a heavily hopped strong American west coast IPA at about 7%.

Unless I see an Imperial Stout that is.....

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INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE IN RATS AND MICE TO ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES: CRRU ACTION PLAN

New surveillance by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use UK has found genes for resistance to anticoagulant rodenticides in 78% of rats and 95% of house mice. According to CRRU chairman Dr Alan Buckle, these include "small but troubling numbers" with two or more such genes, labelled 'hybrid resistance'. In both rats and mice, the geographical distribution of both single-gene and hybrid-resistance continues to spread.

In UK house mice for the first time, this latest annual study also identifies a new four-component '*spretus*' resistance strain in Hertfordshire. "This was acquired by house mice in Spain through interbreeding with the Iberian mouse species, *Mus spretus*," says Dr Buckle. "The Hertfordshire spretus mice have almost certainly come in from the continent. More generally, London is now a clear hot-spot for mice with both single-gene and hybrid resistance."

In rats during the two sampling years 2020 to 2022, the surveillance also found a proliferation of one resistance gene in particular, Y139C, to 30 widely spread new sites in England. This is one of the three most severe rat resistance genes, each of which is now being found in previously low incidence or resistance-free areas.

Dr Buckle warns that these latest findings suggest there are now few places in England with pest rodent populations wholly susceptible to anticoagulants. "Continued use of anticoagulant rodenticides against resistant rats or mice has serious downsides: Incomplete control with consequent ongoing threats to human and animal health; faster geographical spread of surviving resistant individuals; and lengthy survival of resistant pests carrying persistent anticoagulant residues that could be taken as prey by predators."

CRRU's urgent guidance to farmers, gamekeepers and pest controllers is to monitor the resistance status of their own locations. For optimum control of rats and mice in any situation, and to slow the spread of resistance, Dr Buckle urges everyone involved to follow exactly a CRRU five-point action plan:

When using any rodenticide, apply the product's label instructions in full.

Monitor the effectiveness of control and always aim for 100% pest elimination.

If resistance is suspected, look up the site's likely status using Rodenticide Resistance Action Committee maps *https://guide.rrac.info/resistance-maps.html*

If there is no data nearby the site in question, send tail samples to CRRU's free service for resistance testing.

Where rodenticide resistance is found, follow in full the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group's guidelines (RRAG webpage: *https://www.rrag.uk/*

Under contract to CRRU, annual DNA testing for rodenticide resistance genes is carried out by the government's Animal and Plant Health Agency, with data analysis and reporting by the University of Reading. The report is available at https://www.thinkwildlife.org/downloads

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FICAM® D WITHDRAWAL DATES NOW CONFIRMED

The phase-out dates are as follows:

Sold by date – 29th July 2024 (product can no longer be purchased after this date)

Use by date – 25th January 2025 (product can no longer be used after this date)

Pest Control News understands that this may have a big impact on your business in the future. There are a number of alternative products available. We recommend taking technical advice from qualified technical advisors regarding the alternatives to Ficam® D.

Below is a Press Release from ENVU UK™.

Bendiocarb, the active ingredient in Ficam® D, phase-out dates have now been confirmed by the HSE. The dates will be applied from the expiry date of the active substance from 31st January 2024, 180 days sell-out period and an additional 180 day for the use of existing stock.

Therefore, the phase-out dates are as follows:

Sold by date – 29th July 2024 (product can no longer be purchased after this date)

Use by date – 25th January 2025 (product can no longer be used after this date)

The withdrawal of a product is something Envu work very hard to avoid. Envu continue to defend our product registrations and remain committed to constant innovation and new product development to ensure our customers have the best possible solutions to help them protect public health..

Ficam® D is a ready-to-use dustable powder containing Bendiocarb for use indoors as an insecticide against ants, and for the control of wasps and hornets (nests), including Asian Hornets. For over forty years the product has been an effective and essential tool within the professional pest management sector.

Over recent years there have been significant assessments and investments, including changes to the product labelling in 2020, to keep the product available for pest professionals. However new BPR registrations have now made it very difficult to keep products such as Ficam® D on the market.

New innovative solutions

Envu's innovative research and development has already offered a new alternative solution for pest controllers with the K-Othrine® Partix™ which gives the power to control a broad spectrum of pests, including wasps on any surface, whilst significantly reducing active substance levels in the environment (-50%).

Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use.

Selontra®

We identified resistance to both first and second generation anticoagulants on the site. We switched to Selontra® and had really impressive results in just a matter of weeks and would definitely recommend the bait to other pest control professionals. We've actually widened its use as well to some of our other sites because of the results achieved."

Andrea, Manchester Port Health

Core benefits

- Rodents stop-feeding 24 hours after eating a lethal dose. Control is possible within as few as 7 days
- Stops the waste of resources
- Balancing performance and environmental impact
- Breaks the cycle of resistance

NEW! Monitoring Paste

Find out more:

BASF
We create chemistry

At BASF we are committed to innovate to address our customers' needs for effective and sustainable solutions to support their daily work best.

With the recent additions of Storm Ultra and Selontra to our product portfolio, we offer a complementary range of rodenticides addressing the needs for fast, highly efficient, resistance-breaking and sustainable rodent control solutions.

Going forward we will focus on further developing our offer around the most potent anticoagulant flocoumafen, and the highly effective alternative to anticoagulants, cholecalciferol. We decided to not renew difenacoum and difenacoum-based products under the BPR. Accordingly, BASF's difenacoum-based products will be phased-out in Europe in 2023.

Phase-out timelines per product EU/UK (in affected countries)

Product	Sales in countries (2021)	Authorisation expires	Delivery and sell-out period for BASF & Distributor	Use-up product by
DIF CUT WHEAT FORTEC (NeoSorexa Gold)	UK, IE	20/02/2023	19/08/2023	19.02.2024
DIF CANARY SEED (Sorexa D)	UK	19/02/2023	18/08/2023	18.02.2024
DIF BLOCK WITH A HOLE (NeoSorexa Bait Blocks, Sorexa Kostki, Ratak Wax Block Bait, Myorex Wax Block Bait)	UK, IE, PL, GR	10/05/2023	UK and IE: 06/11/2023	PL, GR, CY: 10/05/2023
Mastermixes (0,25%, 0,5%, 2,5%)	DK, IT, UK, DE	with expiry of the AS: 30.06.2024	n.a.	UK/IE: 06/05/2024; PL, GR, CY: 10/11/2023

Avian flu crosses over into foxes and otters

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) confirmed, at the beginning of February 2023, that five foxes and four otters have tested positive for avian flu in England, Scotland and Wales since 2021. The infection in otters and foxes in the UK is likely because they ate infected dead wild birds or their droppings. This finding once again illustrates the importance of pest management as a biosecurity measure.

Rodent control and wild bird control (proofing) highlighted as biosecurity measures in avian flu outbreaks

Defra biosecurity advice, updated 10th November 2022, highlights the importance of rodent control and wild bird proofing in avian flu outbreaks.

There have been 270 confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in the UK since late October 2021.

Advice regarding rodent control is as follows:

- Keep wild birds, dogs, cats, rodents and other livestock out of poultry buildings and feed stores. These can carry infection or infective material onto your farm and spread disease to your flock.
- Have an effective rodent and pest control system in place. Be vigilant for evidence of vermin. Monitor vermin activity by baiting and trapping. Feed silos and containers must be regularly cleaned, maintained and properly sealed, to prevent vermin and wild birds accessing and contaminating feed.
- At depopulation at the end of a production cycle (for example at the end of lay for laying hens), thoroughly clean the building and all equipment, including ducting, drains and fans. Remove all surplus feed, dead birds and litter. Disinfect the premises and all equipment and carry out rodent and other pest control. You should also clean and disinfect cleaning equipment and protective clothing.
- You must consider what measures may be appropriate and practical to protect your birds from contact with wild birds, such as feeding and watering birds indoors or under protection from wild birds and rodents (see the advice on protecting your birds from wild birds later in this guidance). Talk to your private veterinarian for further advice.

To reduce the risk of your birds becoming infected with Avian Influenza, you should take steps to avoid your birds coming in to contact with wild birds, or their faeces/body fluids:

- You should undertake vermin (rats and mice) control to reduce their contact with feed and water for pigeons.

Protecting your birds from wild birds

One way by which notifiable avian disease may spread to poultry is through contact with infected wild birds. Contact may be direct (through mingling), or indirect (through bird secretions, faeces, feathers, rodents etc., contaminating anything that may then come into contact with poultry such as feed, water, utensils clothing or vermin). Flooding at your premises or fields nearby can attract wild birds, thereby increasing the risk of notifiable avian disease. Flood water can be contaminated (with wild bird infectious material), which can get into poultry houses or range areas. Make sure poultry houses or sheds on your premises are well maintained to prevent wild birds from nesting or roosting in them. It is important that you regularly inspect the building(s) used to house your poultry (including game birds and pet birds) for any structural damage (such as leaks e.g. roofs, holes, blocked drains or downpipes) and repair any defects without undue delay. Notifiable avian disease can be introduced into poorly maintained poultry houses, via wild birds, rats or mice that could mechanically carry virus into the house, or ingress of contaminated water. It is your responsibility to make sure your birds are protected from disease causing agents. Biosecurity is cumulative, so the more you do, the better protected your birds will be. Where an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone or other disease control zone such as a Protection Zone, Surveillance Zone or Restricted Zone has been declared, the declaration will state the mandatory biosecurity and wild bird separation measures that will apply. You must follow the disease control measures and any published guidance in force at the time.

Animal & Plant Health Agency

Rodenticide Resistance Action Group (RRAG)

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A new website, a new logo and new advice.

The Rodenticide Resistance Action Group (RRAG) is delighted to report the launch of its new website. Navigate over to have a look at the wealth of excellent information regarding rodenticide resistance https://www.rrag.uk/ As RRAG move to its new website, we would like to thank the British Pest Control Association (BPCA) for hosting our previous site within the BPCA's own. Many thanks to RRAG member and resident web-wizard Alex Wade for volunteering to overhaul and re-launch the entire website.

Not only does RRAG have a new website it also worked with the marketing team of Killgerm Chemicals to create a new logo. Here it is! If you were at PestTech in November, you may have caught first sight of the new logo at the RRAG stand. The RRAG pop-up was kindly provided by BASF and Killgerm, with the stand area reserved for us by the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA).

What is RRAG?

RRAG is a UK-based group consisting of representatives from Universities, Government Agencies and all sectors of the Pest Management Industry, with an expertise in Rodenticide Resistance.

Members are:

Dr Matthew Davies (Chair)
Dr Andy Brigham
Dr Alan Buckle
Natalie Bungay
Saira Cawthraw
Michael Davies
Steve Hallam
Sharon Hughes
Richard Moseley
Dr Colin Prescott
Alex Wade

What is the new advice?

Have a look at page 12 for the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU UK) update regarding hybrid resistance. Genes for resistance to anticoagulant rodenticides have been found in 78% of rats and 95% of house mice. According to CRRU chairman Dr Alan Buckle, these include "small but troubling numbers" with two or more such genes, labelled 'hybrid resistance'. In both rats and mice, the geographical distribution of both single-gene and hybrid-resistance continues to spread. In UK house mice for the first time, a new four-component '*spretus*' resistance strain has been identified in Hertfordshire. "This was acquired by house mice in Spain through interbreeding with the Iberian mouse species, *Mus spretus*," says Dr Buckle.

In response to the latest findings RRAG has issued advice on hybrid resistance.

RRAG advice: Hybrid Anticoagulant Rodenticide Resistance

Hybrid resistance occurs when individual rodents, each possessing different anticoagulant resistance mutations, interbreed and produce offspring that carry mutations conferred by both parents.

Hybrid resistance is found with increasing frequency in the UK, in both Norway rats and house mice, in surveys of resistance conducted for the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) UK by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Hybrid resistance is important because our knowledge of the severity and practical implications of anticoagulant resistance in the UK, developed over many decades, is based on studies of animals that carry only one mutation. Therefore, what we say about the impacts of hybrid resistance on practical rodent control must be based on carefully considered assumption and limited research done in other European countries.

The advice now provided by the Rodenticide Resistance Action Group is based on informed estimates of the likely impacts of hybrid resistance. It may change as field experience is gained and further studies are carried out.

Advice for hybrid resistant house mice

- If you have mice at a site that carry two (or more) resistance mutations it is reasonable to assume that they are highly resistant to anticoagulants.
- If the '*spretus*' introgression is present, there is no evidence that, either on its own or in hybrid form with other mutations, it is more problematic than the more common mutations Y139C and L128S. Introgression is the transfer of genetic material from one species into another, in this case from *Mus spretus* into *Mus musculus*.
- If you use anticoagulants against house mice in the UK ALWAYS use an SGAR and NOT an FGAR.
- Among SGARs, choose products that contain either brodifacoum, difethialone or flocoumafen. These substances consistently have the lowest resistance factors and therefore highest potential control efficacy.
- Using bromadiolone and difenacoum products will exacerbate house mouse resistance problems.
- ALWAYS use baits with the maximum available concentration of the active substance – this is generally 50 parts per million (ppm) for professional users.
- Note that all products containing difethialone are available only at a concentration of 25 ppm. Therefore, even if difethialone is equally as effective as the other two substances (and there is some evidence it is not), mice will need to eat twice as much bait to achieve the same effect.
- Always consider the use of control methods that do not employ anticoagulants. These include the following:
    - Products containing the active substance cholecalciferol,
    - Products containing the active substance alphachloralose,
    - Physical methods, such a traps and glue boards (where available and legally permitted),
    - These products and methods have the very important advantage that they are equally effective against both resistant and susceptible mice. Therefore, they do not select in favour of resistance and cannot make resistance worse.

Advice for hybrid resistant Norway rats

- If you have rats at a site that carry two (or more) resistance mutations it is reasonable to assume that they are highly resistant to anticoagulants.
- If one of the resistances detected is Y139C, Y139F or L120Q, and you intend to use an SGAR, choose products that contain either brodifacoum, difethialone orflocoumafen. These substances consistently have the lowest resistance factors and therefore highest potential control efficacy.
- Using bromadiolone and difenacoum products against Norway rats with these three resistances will exacerbate resistance.
- ALWAYS use baits with the maximum available concentration of the active substance – this is generally 50 parts per million (ppm) for professional users.
- Note that all products containing difethialone are available only at a concentration of 25 ppm. Therefore, even if difethialone is equally as effective as the other two substances, rats will need to eat twice as much bait to achieve the same effect.
- Always consider the use of control methods that do not employ anticoagulants. These include the following:
    - Products containing the active substance cholecalciferol,
    - Physical methods, such a traps and glue boards (where available and legally permitted),
    - These products and methods have the very important advantage that they are equally effective against both resistant and susceptible rats. Therefore, they do not select in favour of resistance and cannot make resistance worse.

Rodent Borne Diseases - Viruses

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Pest Control News talks to PhD student Ana Carolina Yamakawa, working on a collaborative project with the University of Reading and Killgerm Chemicals Ltd, regarding the latest research on rodent-borne disease. In this case it is viruses.

Hantaviruses

Discovered in the 1970s, hantaviruses are a type of RNA virus that has been recently reclassified as part of the Bunyavirales order and Hantaviridae family (Laenen et al., 2019; Lee et al., 1978). First identified in the lung tissue of a field mouse (*Apodemus agrarius*), the Hantaan virus is one of the hantaviruses that can cause hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) in Asia. The HFRS can cause a moderate disease with fever, headache, renal dysfunctions, and in some severe cases, a haemorrhagic syndrome (bleeding). In the 1990s, a severe respiratory disease outbreak in the United States caused over 75% mortality, later determined to be caused by the Sin Nombre virus - a specie of Hantavirus carried by the deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) (Nichol et al., 1993; Childs et al., 1994). This marked the first recorded incidence of Hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome (HCPS). The HCPS is exclusively present in the Americas.

There are several hantaviruses species, with varying geographic distributions directly influenced by the presence of specific rodent carriers (Bennett et al., 2014; Plyusnin & Morzunov, 2000). Historically, rodents have been the primary reservoir for these viruses, with human exposure to endemic areas with rodent activity increasing the risk of occurrence (Bennett et al., 2014; Jonsson, Figueiredo & Vapalahti, 2010). Transmission of hantaviruses can occur through inhalation of aerosolized dry rodent excreta such as urine and droppings. Consequently, these diseases pose an occupational hazard for individuals such as farmers, military personnel, forestry workers, and pest controllers who work in environments with potential exposure to these rodent-borne viruses.

In the UK, the first hantavirus case was confirmed in 2012 in an acute kidney injury (renal dysfunctions) patient that reported a recent increase in the rat population at his home. After confirming that the patient presented antibodies to hantavirus, rodents were trapped in the property and two brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) tested positive for Seoul virus (SEOV) (Jameson et al., 2013). Further, a serological surveillance (a. k. a. antibodies screening) study conducted in England found that almost 3 in 100 pest controllers presented antibodies to hantavirus, the same as in non-occupational risk populations. The frequency is even higher in pet rat owners, with 34.1% of antibodies frequency (Duggan et al., 2017). The presence of antibodies suggests that the individual has had previous contact with the virus, but it alone cannot confirm the occurrence of the disease. Thankfully, the Hantaviruses are classified as rare in the UK. The last confirmed cases reported were in South Wales in 2015 and were related to domestic/fancy rats (Public Health England, 2017, 2018).

Monkeypox

Monkeypox is a rare infection caused by a virus from the *Orthopoxvirus* genus. The virus was first isolated in 1958 from captive monkeys transported to Denmark from Africa, hence the name monkeypox (Magnus et al., 1959). Monkeypox is known to infect several species of mammals, such as squirrels, rats, and striped mice, however, the main natural reservoir remains unknown (Mitjà et al., 2023).

The first human case was identified in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during smallpox surveillance conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) (Marennikova et al., 1972). The symptoms are similar to smallpox, starting with fever, chills, headaches, and muscle aches, and after a few days developing skin lesions (e. g. macules, papules, vesicles, and pustules) (Petersen et al., 2019). The disease can be fatal in 1 to 10% of the cases, being more severe in children and immunocompromised adults (Huhn et al., 2005). The transmission can occur by direct contact (e.g. touching, cleaning secretions, and hunting) with infected animals and humans (Mitjà et al., 2023).

Historically, the disease has been endemic in parts of the African continent, with sporadic cases (Petersen et al., 2019).

The first outside Africa cases were confirmed in 2003 during an outbreak that affected more than 70 people in the USA (Hutson et al., 2007). The infected had contact with pet prairie dogs (Cynomys species), related to be the source of this outbreak. After investigations, was determined that the virus was introduced in the USA by a shipment of animals from Ghana, which included six rodent species, and of those, three were infected by the virus (CDC, 2003). The infected rodents were two African giant pouched rats (*Cricetomys gambianus*), nine dormice, and 3 rope squirrels (*Funisciurus congicus*), and the prairie dogs were infected after being housed close to some of the positive rodents.

In the UK the first confirmed case was in 2018, in two patients that had come from Nigeria (Vaughan et al., 2018) and in one of the health care workers involved in the case (PHE, 2018). In 2019 and 2021, 4 more people traveling from Nigeria to the UK were confirmed to be positive for Monkeypox (Hobson et al., 2021). In 2022, an outbreak of Monkeypox affected the UK with more than 3,500 cases confirmed until December (UK Health Security Agency, 2022). The main affected are males and the transmission circumstances are mostly by close contact.

In this current outbreak, the main transmission route was human to human, however, the possible development of a zoonotic reservoir in the UK is one of the scientific uncertainties published in the UK strategy for Monkeypox control, 2022 to 2023 (PHA, 2022). Even though brown rats have not been related to Monkeypox infection, in experimental conditions neonates can be infected (Parker & Buller, 2013). Besides that, they are well known as reservoirs for the Cowpox virus, another *Orthopoxvirus*. Furthermore, lots of uncertainty remains, and scientists are still trying to understand the virus cycle, how humans can be infected, and possible natural reservoirs, with rodents as one of the main targets (Mitjà et al., 2023).

Cowpox

Another *Orthopoxvirus*, cowpox infection in humans is rare and can cause skin lesions and, in a few cases, a severe ocular infection (Kinnunen et al., 2015; Krankowska et al., 2021). Rodents are the main reservoirs, however, cats are an important source of human infection. Probably related to cats predating infected rodents, developing the diseases, and spreading them to humans. The transmission can occur by direct contact with infected animals and the skin lesions can appear in the contact area or even be generalized. The UK had few cases in the last decade, which were mainly related to cat transmission (Haddadeen et al., 2020; Kiernan & Koutroumanos, 2021). However, in Germany, a transmission between pet rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and human cases was confirmed (Campe et al., 2009; Vogel et al., 2012).

Lymphocytic choriomeningitis

Caused by the Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV), this disease can lead to mild flu symptoms (e. g. fever, chills, muscle pain, and headache) in most cases. However, fewer patients can develop aseptic meningitis (a.k.a. inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain) and meningoencephalitis (a.k.a. inflammation of the protective membranes and the brain) (Lapošová, Pastoreková & Tomášková, 2013).

The house mice (*Mus musculus*) is the most common reservoir and can eliminate the virus through the saliva, urine, and droppings (Lapošová, Pastoreková & Tomášková, 2013). Pet rodents, such as a hamster, can also be infected and become a source of human exposure. Human infection can occur through direct contact with rodents, inhalation of aerosolized dry rodent excreta, or even bites (Vilibic-Cavlek et al., 2021).

In the UK, house mice have been confirmed to carry the LCMV (Becker et al., 2007; Blasdell et al., 2008). A study also found antibodies against LCMV in wood mice (*Apodemus sylvaticus*) and red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) from the UK (Blasdell et al., 2008).

For references please visit www.pcn.co.uk

Evaluation Of Snap-Traps As A Non-Chemical Control Method For A Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) Infestation.

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Within the UK and EU, for more than 50 years the control of commensal rodents has been dominated by chemical control, namely anticoagulant and more recently cholecalciferol baits.

Despite the regulatory challenges faced by these chemicals, they continue to be authorised within the UK and EU for rodent control due to a lack of efficient and viable alternatives, including non-chemical control methods. European guidelines[2] have recently been published for the evaluation of non-chemical rodent control (NoCheRo), particularly rodent snap-traps, as such a viable alternative to rodenticide baits. BASF undertook a snap-trap trial against Brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) on a farm near Chester. The make and model of the snap-trap was chosen as a typical representative of the commercial snap traps available in the current market. The farm site had a discrete Brown rat infestation with little chance of rapid reinvasion from adjoining areas

The aim of the trial was to assess the effectiveness of the snap trap and record any humaneness or welfare concerns. A more detailed description of this trial and its results will be presented at PPC live in March, but this article will provide a brief outline of some of the results.

The efficiency of the snap traps in controlling the rat infestation was measured using pre- and post-trapping assessment indices. That is census diet (blank wheat) to measure the rat food takes and sand tracking patches to measure rat record activity before and after the trapping period. The Pest Management Alliance, Code of practice. Humane use of break-back traps[3] was followed with each snap trap placed in either a tamper resistant bait box or inside a wooden custom made tunnel and all traps were checked daily.

A site survey, and previous experience of this site, determined that 100 bait points would have been needed to control the infestation, therefore in a "like for like" study, 100 snap traps were used, each with peanut butter as a lure.

In order to allow the rats to acclimatise to all the equipment and thereby minimise any neophobic response by the rats, all traps were placed, unset, inside either the bait box or the wooden tunnel for 5 weeks prior to the start of the trapping period.

RESULTS

The results of the trial were as follows;

1. Impact of the snap-trap treatment on the size of the infestation (Table 1)

The initial infestation was estimated at approximately 780 rats. During the 21 days of trapping, a total of 105 rats were caught, less than 14 % of the initial infestation. After 21 days of trapping the infestation had increased in numbers by 18.5 % to approximately 930 rats.

Table 1. Analysis of the size of the infestation, pre and post 21 days trapping

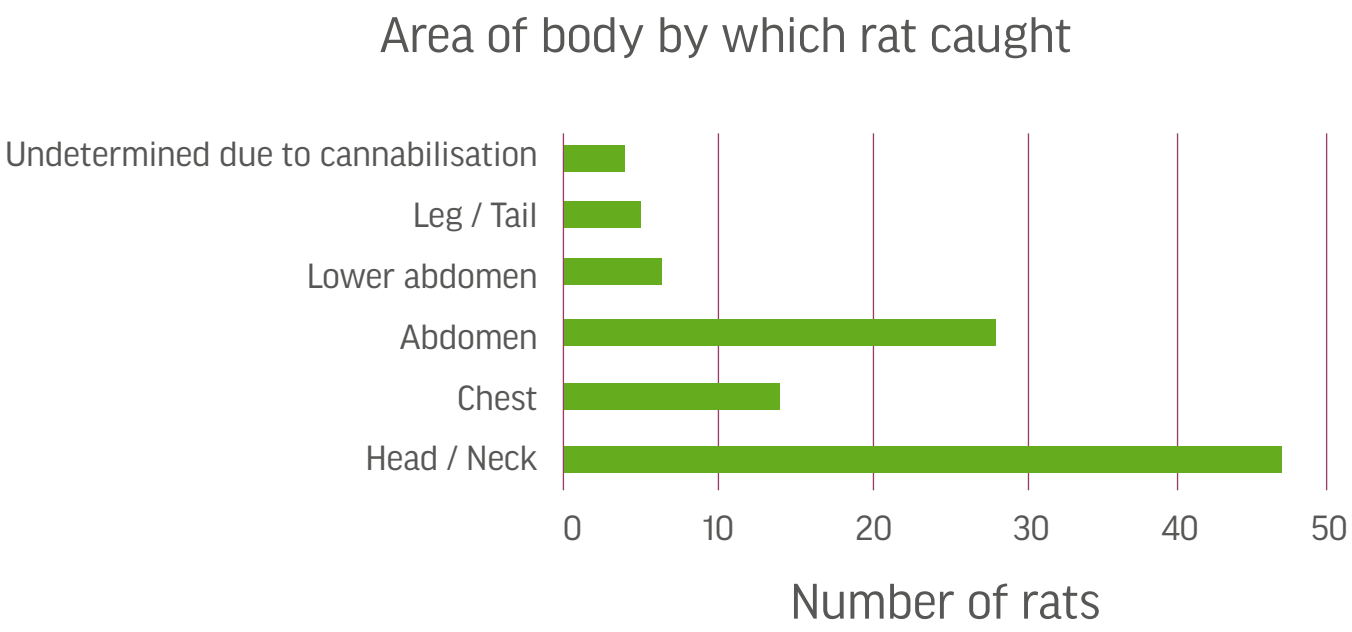
	Census Diet (blank wheat) Take, g	Tracking Score	Overall average change
Average per day during pre-treatment	7, 782	207	
Average per day during post treatment	9, 301	240	
% increase in infestation size	+ 21	+ 16	+18.5

The largest number of rats caught per day was on days 1 and 2 (14 rats for each day). From days 3 to 21 the number of rats caught per day ranged between 2 and 7. This reduction in rats caught after the first two days, suggests a further learnt neophobic response to the snap traps.

The snap traps were highly unsuccessful in controlling the heavy Brown rat infestation. This confirms the statement that snap traps "may be effective in situations where infestations are small but are unlikely to be cost-effective against large and dispersed rodent infestations" (Sustainable use of rodenticides as biocides in the EU, EBPF European Biocidal Products Forum, 20101).

Furthermore, Killgerm (Mark Ward and Dr Matthew Davies) conducted a similar trial to assess the performance of snap-traps against a Brown rat rural infestation. The results were that, after 21 days of trapping, the activity had increased by approximately 20 %.

Figure 1. Area of body by which rats were caught in the snap-traps



2. Age / size of the rats caught in the traps

The bodyweight of each rat caught in the traps was recorded. Adult rats avoided the traps to a greater extent than juvenile rats. Almost 80 % of the rats caught were what can be considered as non-breeding juveniles, that is with a bodyweight of less than 150 g. Therefore, the capture of these juveniles had no impact on the breeding capability of the infestation. Hence the infestation just kept increasing in size throughout the 21 day trapping period.

3. Humaneness

The area of the body by which the snap trap caught the rat (see Figure 1) can be directly related to the how quickly that rat dies and hence the humaneness of their death. Rats caught by the leg, tail or lower abdomen are likely to have taken much longer to die and experienced a much greater degree of pain and distress. It is noteworthy that according to the NoCheRo guidance "If an animal is not dead within 120 seconds, it must be killed using a recognized humane method." That is taking greater than 120 seconds is considered an inhumane death . Rats caught by the leg, tail, lower abdomen or across a combination of these body areas would likely take much longer than 120 seconds to die and can thus be considered as an inhumane kill. In total, 39 of the 105 rats caught (37 %) were caught by a body part that would have resulted in a painful, distressing and inhumane death. Three of rats caught were found still alive when the traps were checked.

4. Time spent

During the 21 day trapping period, a total of 40 operator hours were spent. Based on previous experience a rodenticde baiting treatment on this farm, with 100 bait points of Selontra® (0.075 % cholecalciferol paste bait), over a 21 day time period would require approximately 18 operator hours. This is with the same number and location of bait points as trap points. Therefore, trapping takes over twice as many opeartor hours and requires the commitment to be able to visit and inspect the site every day and then still the infestation may not be controlled.

CONCLUSION

The trapping period was terminated after 21 days due to the problems for the farm animals and farm workers associated with the size of the infestation increasing and the occurrence of trap avoidance by the rats.

If the trapping period had even continued for 35 days (as recommended in the NoCheRo guidelines), it would not be possible to control the infestation due to avoidance of the traps by the rats and the significant growth in the size of the infestation. Therefore, the snap traps were highly **ineffective** in controlling the significant Brown rat infestation. With a rodenticide bait treatment, the infestation would have significantly decreased and not increased by 21 days, and unlike the trap trial, control would be achieved

.

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Date and location announced for ICUP 2025 conference

Held once every three years, the dates and location of the next International Conference on Urban Pests (ICUP) have now been announced by the organisers.

The conference will take place from 29 June to 2 July 2025 at AF-Borgen, the Academic Society (Akademiska Föreningen) building in Lund, southern Sweden.

The 2025 organising team, is chaired by Jette Knudsen from Nattaro Labs based in Lund. Jette explains: "After the close of ICUP 2022 in Barcelona, we assembled our 2025 Organising Committee, which includes members from most Nordic countries. We are already working hard to prepare another stimulating and productive ICUP event."

As at previous ICUP conferences, the 2025 programme will address the science and management of a wide variety of urban pests and vectors, including those of hygiene, structural and medical importance. Particular focus will be on pests that have an increasing impact as a result of our changing world. The impact of regulatory and stewardship challenges will also be included.

In addition to the main conference sessions, there will be break-out sessions and workshops, as well as the ever-popular conference dinner. Equally important are the informal networking times, when views are freely exchanged between delegates, and working partnerships established.

This highly popular, non-profit conference is the leading international forum for sharing information and ideas on the impact, biology and control of pests in the urban environment. It is attended by entomologists, pest management professionals, academic and government scientists from around the world.

Details regarding delegate registration and how to offer a paper for consideration by the organising committee will be announced in the near future when the ICUP 2025 website goes live.

All presentations from previous conferences can be found on the central ICUP website at www.icup.org.uk.

This will be the eleventh in the series of ICUP conferences. The previous conferences have been held in Cambridge, England (1993), Edinburgh, Scotland (1996) Prague, Czech Republic (1999), Charleston, USA (2002), Singapore (2005) Budapest, Hungary (2008), Ouro Preto, Brazil (2011), Zurich, Switzerland (2014) Birmingham, UK (2017) and Barcelona, Spain (2022).

Jette Knudsen, chairman of the ICUP 2025 organising committee

The venue for ICUP 2025. AF-Borgen, Lund, Sweden

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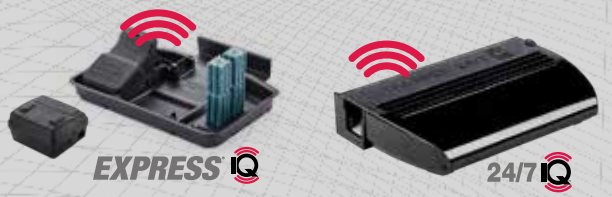

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Bird pellets

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With concerns continuing over the level of anticoagulant residues in birds of prey, such as barn owls, it makes sense to be aware of signs of their presence. One such clue is their pellets.

Bird pellets are balls formed by remains of undigested food that some birds, especially birds of prey, regurgitate.

They provide useful information to help us understand the type of food taken and the predatory relationships involved - 'what eats what'. For example, it is known via pellet examination that barn owls take wood mice *Apodemus sylvaticus* and bank voles *Myodes glareolus*. This is a route of anticoagulant contamination of barn owls.

The content depends on the bird's diet, but usually tend to be composed of hair, bone or feathers; the elements that cannot be digested.

Common in owls and other raptors (birds of prey).

Pellets of a barn owl *Tyto alba*.

Remains of rodent bones found in a barn owl pellet.

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Flea Control

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Many of us in the industry are still lamenting the loss of Ficam W, well-known for excellent flea control but it has long been time to move on. While there are many talking points regarding alternative products, most of which have been documented in previous issues of PCN, we should take a look back at this year's flea season and remind ourselves of best practice in flea control. While product choice is very important, the way these are applied is the most crucial aspect. One important piece of feedback, which stands out as especially relevant with the newer insecticides, is that we should now expect to need to apply two spray treatments approximately a month apart for some flea jobs. This is quite different to historic expectations that one spray treatment may be sufficient for some jobs.

Flea biology

Life cycle

The flea life cycle is one of complete metamorphosis, progressing from egg – larva – pupa – adult. This life cycle can be completed in good conditions (warm temperature, presence of a suitable host) in approximately one month, using the cat flea *Ctenocephalides felis* as a guide.

The pupal stage is significant because fleas can survive, waiting, for several months in the absence of a host and in cool conditions before emerging *en masse* when someone / something enters the undisturbed area again. This explains the 'mass attack' sometimes experienced when entering vacant properties. Control of fleas in vacant properties can be challenging with typical water-based insecticides. This is likely because a large portion of the flea population is still in the pupal stage which is encased within a silk outer layer. What does silk do? It repels water! Anecdotally, oil-based insecticides can be quite effective when used for flea control in vacant premises, possibly penetrating the silken layer.

Ever wondered how long fleas can live for? The record is held by starved fleas of wild rodents in Russia, which are recorded as having lived for up to 369 days (over a year!) in cool conditions.

Cat fleas surviving for 2-4 months is a more normal situation e.g. in warm conditions and regular opportunities to take a blood meal from a suitable host.

What do fleas eat?

Blood of course! The adults are bloodsucking ectoparasites, feasting on host blood via piercing and sucking mouthparts. So rather than saying "I've been bitten" we should technically say "I've been pierced and sucked" but as one sounds politer than the other it becomes a matter of preference. This is where the fleas Order 'Siphonaptera' earn their name – 'siphon' for siphoning off blood and 'a-ptera' as in 'without wings' (Ptera means 'wing' and 'a' means without – Tech ed.).

Well that's the adult diet covered but remember they undergo complete metamorphosis with an active and feeding larval stage. What exactly do flea larvae eat then? The answer is that they consume miscellaneous organic debris such as particles of food and faeces. The most important part of their diet is part-digested blood excreted by adult fleas. Can you see why vacuuming and cleanliness can be an important part of flea management? Removal of the larval food source can be beneficial...

While still discussing the diet of fleas, here is a quick quiz question.

Which flea species is the most common on domestic dogs in the UK?

a) Dog flea *Ctenocephalides canis*

b) Cat flea *Ctenocephalides felis*

The answer, perhaps surprisingly is that the cat flea is more commonly associated with domestic dogs in the UK than the dog flea. In fact, the cat flea breeds perfectly well on dog blood and is not host-specific to the cat. Note that cat fleas cannot reproduce in a practical setting when feeding on human blood – they can just maintain themselves and that is all. The cat flea is without doubt the flea found most commonly associated with domestic cats in the UK. Should then the cat flea be renamed to 'domestic companion animal flea'? Maybe not, as it doesn't exactly trip off the tongue.

Vacuuming

One point on vacuuming though. What has the impact of modern bag-less vacuum cleaners had on prevalence of fleas and their activity in domestic homes? Some of the larger-capacity reservoirs are quite loose-fitting and it is easy to understand how fleas might escape from vacuum cleaners and move into other previously flea-free rooms as the appliance is moved around. Perhaps the larger capacity bag-less vacuum cleaners are not disposed of as frequently and securely as the more traditional bag cleaners? The loose contents, tipped into the kitchen waste bin, rather than a small old-style bag being tied up and disposed of in an outdoor bin...

This is not to say that vacuuming is a bad idea in flea management of course. One American study shows that insecticide deposits remain tightly bound to carpet fibres even after vacuuming. Other studies show vacuuming removes 90% of flea eggs, 50% of larvae and up to 95% of adult fleas – an underrated method.

Remember to use a HEPA filter vacuum cleaner to prevent the re-circulation of insect fragments which may cause allergic asthma.

A strategy for flea control

The following strategy for flea control is inspired by Envu guidance. Their official strategy for flea control leaflet can be found here ***https://www.assets.envu.com/-/media/prfunitedkingdom/marketing-material/bayer-flea-control-guide.ashx***

Procedure for identifying and control

1. Survey

The purpose of a survey is to identify the focus of flea activity. Identifying the flea species is a crucial step – this may give information about whether there is a rodent, bird or other animal host or even nesting that can be removed because not all flea problems will be related to cats and dogs. Flea monitors capture adult fleas and the sticky pads can then be submitted to an entomologist for reliable identification. Where host animals are present, ask the occupier which areas are frequented by their pet, these are likely seats of flea activity.

2. Pre-Treatment Preparation

Before treatment ensure:

2.1 Vacuum the premises, paying attention to floors and upholstered furniture. The purpose of this is to remove animal hair, organic debris and eggs, larvae, pupae and adult fleas. An added benefit of vacuuming is that the vibrations can trigger adults to emerge from their dormant pupal stage. Of course, this is when the adult fleas begin to contact insecticide deposits. Steam cleaning may be necessary as an additional measure in particularly dirty or challenging conditions.

Remember that vacuuming efforts should be focussed under furniture, chairs, sofa cushions, cracks and crevices in floors and along walls (wall-floor junctions) as these are areas typically frequented by host animals like cats and dogs. Take care to dispose of the contents of the vacuum cleaner securely and in an outside waste bin to minimise the risk of transferring fleas throughout the property.

2.2 Ensure access to the floor, so the whole floor area can be treated, by removing items that would otherwise cause obstruction.

2.3 It is recommended that tile and concrete floors are swept and washed or vacuumed

2.4 Dispose of or wash (in hot soapy water) pet bedding to remove fleas. Nests of birds or other animal nesting material, if shown to be a source of flea activity, should be removed (subject to any statutory protection of the wildlife involved).

2.5 The pet or animal owner needs to play their part and they should be advised to treat their animal with a relevant flea control product. This provides the greatest chance of total control as both the residence and host have been appropriately treated.

3. Treatment

Treatments should consider:

3.1 Interior: Floor areas should be thoroughly sprayed with a high-quality residual insecticide, according to label directions. Insecticidal powder, fog / mist, aerosol or smoke treatments may also be useful in conjunction with a residual treatment.

Insecticide residues should be left undisturbed for as long as possible to ensure maximum residual activity. The key point regarding insecticide use is to follow product label directions.

Support for gamekeepers from the Think Wildlife programme

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Recent high-profile incidents of raptor poisonings have brought the gamekeeping sector's use of rodenticides under increased scrutiny. Clearly, these incidents damage gamekeeping's good name for managing and protecting the countryside, and jeopardise the continued use of rodenticides by gamekeepers.

This sector's dedication to rodenticide training and employing responsible practices is highly valued by Think Wildlife, writes Alan Buckle, chairman of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use. The responsible majority will have good reason to feel disappointed, and angered, by the small minority who are either intentionally or mistakenly breaking the law.

To avoid misunderstandings, we urge all trained individuals to continually familiarise themselves with the rodenticide stewardship rules and always follow best practice (thinkwildlife.org/code-of-best-practice/).

In particular, this includes following the directions on product labels. It is essential to remember that not all rodenticides can be used in all situations.

'Directions For Use' on every product label define the allowed uses. Anything else is illegal. Indeed, misreading or ignoring directions for use on product labels are high probability causes of rodenticide contamination of non-target wildlife, including birds of prey, small mammals and even invertebrates such as slugs. Clearly, this applies equally to farmers and pest controllers, whom we are reminding likewise.

What different label statements mean

It is a legal requirement for manufacturers to include HSE-approved text on rodenticide product labels. The most commonly misunderstood uses involve products applied outdoors, both around buildings and in the open countryside, and when bait is applied directly into burrows. Key label phrases are:

1) 'Outdoors – around buildings': allows bait to be deployed ONLY to treat an infestation of a building. The 'outdoors' part means that baits can be put down outside the building to control an infestation within, provided all label instructions about protection of bait placements are followed.

With a similar meaning, 'in and around buildings' is also used on some labels. This phrase also allows use outdoors to control an infestation of a building and permits bait application within the building as well.

2) 'Open areas': covers treating an infestation of rats (but never mice) that is NOT DEMONSTRABLY associated with a building.

Among anticoagulant products, ONLY SOME of those containing difenacoum and bromadiolone are authorised for use in 'open areas'.

Products containing **brodifacoum, difethialone and flocoumafen MUST NEVER** be used in 'open areas' away from buildings. It is an offence to do this and may lead to prosecution.

3) 'Burrow baiting': is permitted on some product labels and means that baits can be applied directly into rodent burrows, generally outdoors. This is ONLY allowed away from buildings IF the product label says that BOTH burrow baiting AND 'open areas' use are allowed.

We would also remind anyone who believes rodenticides are being misused or abused can contact the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS). You can find details here (bit.ly/3vUZPeP) and to report a suspected incident, call 0800 321600.

More information relevant to gamekeepers and rodenticide use can be found here (thinkwildlife.org/stewardship-regime/just-for-gamekeepers/) and you're welcome to email us with any queries, no matter how minor, at office@thinkwildlife.org.

Best wishes for the season ahead and for upholding the high integrity

New Products

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Sirius X

The Chameleon® Sirius X retains the beautiful style of the Sirius whilst offering all the advantages of the Quantum® X LED technology: sustainability, excellent flying insect control performance and low running costs.

Fitted with two Quantum X shatterproof tubes and the dedicated LED range glue board. Each centrally dividable replacement glue board offers two usages. Available in white or stainless steel.

Visit www.killgerm.com

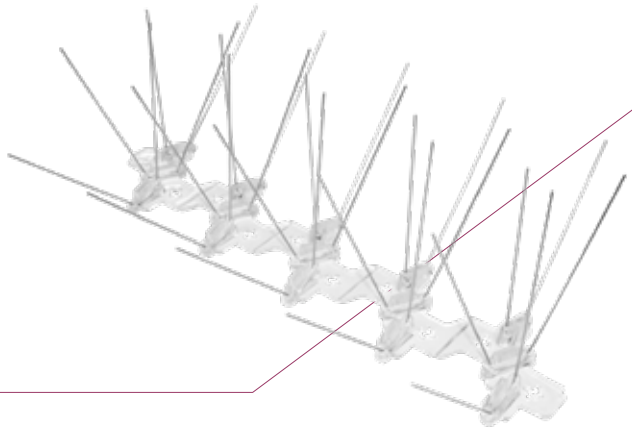
Selontra Monitoring Paste

A highly palatable bait based on the Selontra bait matrix. Non-toxic for integrated pest management, the product is formulated not to contain any of the 8 big food allergies.

Durable against heat, cold, slugs and snails. Upon detection of rodent activity switch to Selontra.

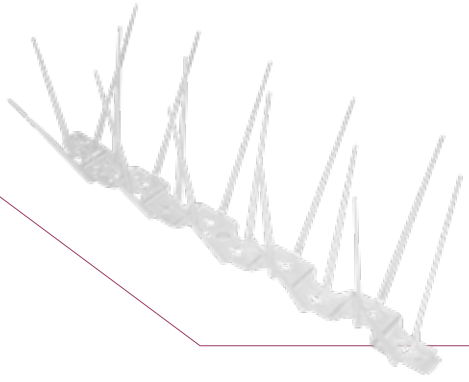
Visit www.killgerm.com

Stainless Steel Spike Systems



Killgerm's new stainless steel Spike Systems have a UV stabilised polycaronate base. They are temperature resistant with no loss of mechanical strenth from 120oC to 130oC. The pins are made from corrocion-resistant 304 grade stanless steel.

Visit www.killgerm.com



Plastic Spike Systems

Killgerm's new plastic spike systems are made of a clear polycarbonate plastic. The narrow pigeon spikes become virtually invisible once installed. They are UV Stabilise, so will continue protecting property for years.

Visit www.killgerm.com

PPC Live 2023: Professional pest controllers LIVE is back!

Whether you're an experienced pest control technician, a surveyor, support staff, a specialist, or just want to learn more about the sector – this one-day event is for you.

Over 1,000 pest professionals are already signed up and the PPC exhibitor hall is sold out. Over 50 exhibitors will be showing off the latest and greatest pest control technology and innovations.

When: Wednesday, 22 March 2023

Where: Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate, United Kingdom

Times: 9am - 4pm

Registration

It's not too late to register! Pre-registered guests get a free breakfast roll and hot drink voucher, available until 10.30 from the coffee lounge.

ppconline.org/register

Seminars and demonstrations

PPC Live is the only pest control show with indoor and outdoor demonstrations, plus a traditional seminar theatre.

CPD points

BPCA Registered CPD points

1 point per hour spent learning.
+ 1 extra point for completing the BPCA CPD Safari.

Basis Prompt CPD points

Maximum 6 points available:
2 for attending + 4 from attending seminars (1 point each).

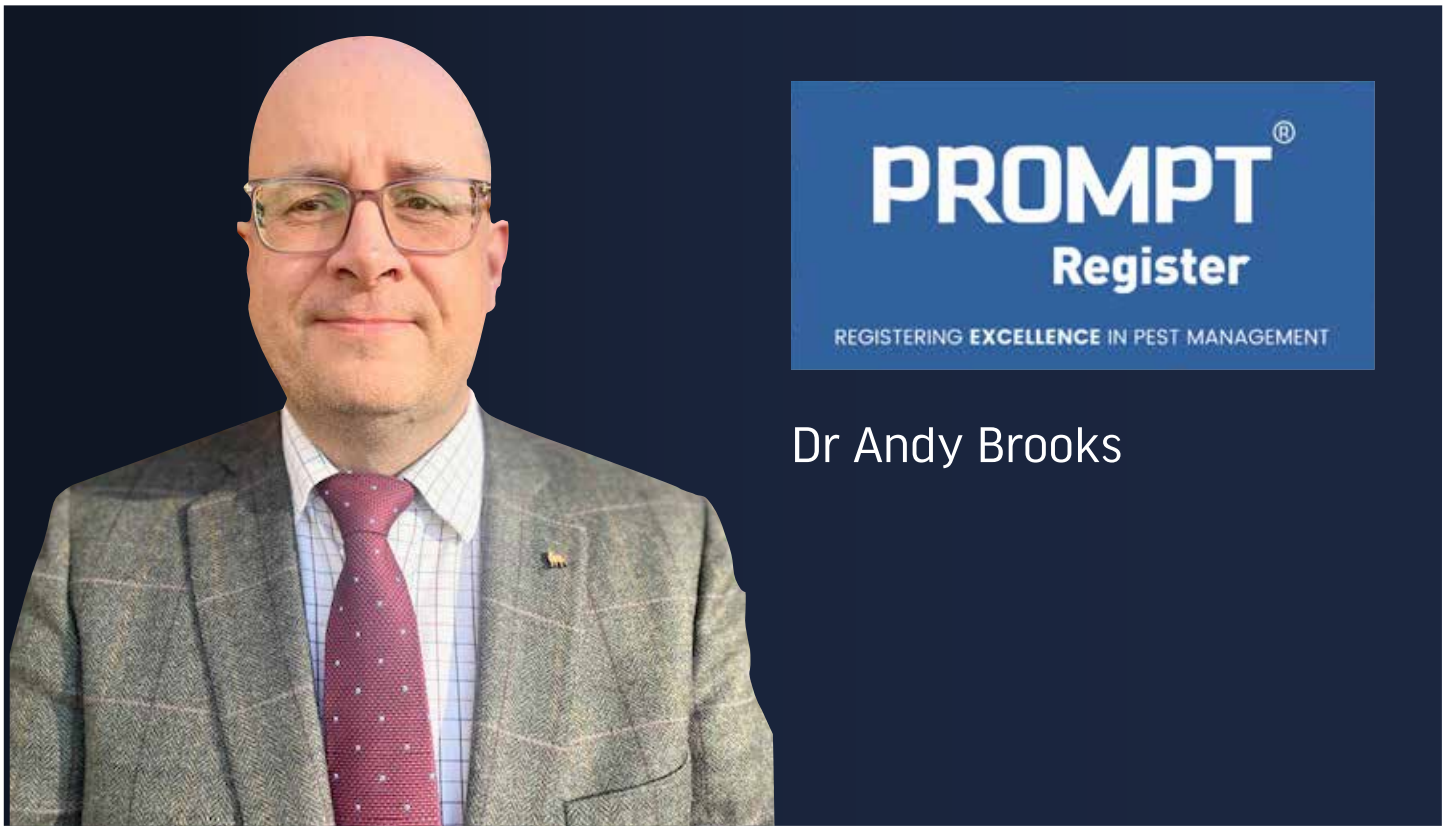
Don't forget to bring your BPCA Registered or Basis card with you!

The venue

PPC's back in the beautiful, historic Yorkshire Dales National Park, Harrogate. The Yorkshire Event Centre is located just 15 minutes from the motorway, with plenty of free parking and only a ten-minute walk from the nearest train station.

Travel information: **visitharrogate.co.uk**
Places to stay: **accommodationharrogate.co.uk**

BPCA British Pest Control Association



PROMPT Appoints new Head of Education and Membership Services

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The UK professional CPD register BASIS PROMPT has appointed a new Head of Education and Membership Services to help drive the organisation forward and grow its membership further.

In late 2022, Dr Andy Brooks joined PROMPT as Head of Education and Membership Services to help support the current membership, and to develop new training opportunities.

The move to PROMPT marks a change for Andy, as he leaves behind his role as a Senior Lecturer in Agronomy at Harper Adams University. Whilst working at Harper Adams, Andy was the Liaison Officer between the University and BASIS Registration for the accreditation partnership and therefore, has been familiar with PROMPT for several years.

The aim of PROMPT is to provide a highly professional service from a dedicated team. All members will benefit from the investment in digital technology in recently. This has given its members easy access to their CPD records, online CPD training, and being part of PROMPT Verified.

He said "Spending the day at Pest Tech 2022 back in November was a great introduction to the industry and it gave me an excellent opportunity to meet PROMPT members. What struck me most was the professionalism and passion for the industry. Coming from an agricultural background, I am familiar with the role of pest technicians, certainly in the rural context, but it was really an eye opener to see how broad and vibrant the sector is."

"Training and currency of knowledge is crucial in a public facing sector like pest control, and CPD plays a key role in this. Being a PROMPT member provides reassurance to clients that a technician is appropriately trained and keeps their knowledge up to date though CPD. Through events, and the now the new BASIS PROMPT Classroom, CPD can be gained across a broad range of areas, and we look forward to supporting these opportunities over the coming months."

Glue boards in Wales - a disappointing turn that could affect the whole of the UK, says BPCA

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Glue boards have been under the spotlight for a long time now. Although BPCA was initially successful in lobbying for a licensing scheme in Westminster, Wales and Scotland are proving frustratingly challenging to influence. BPCA Chief Exec Ian Andrew talks all things pests in politics and reflects on some of the lessons the sector learnt from the glue board debates.

Here is a quick recap on glue boards before we press ahead with the current issues.

- BPCA has always supported a ban on amateur glue board use
- The Glue Traps (Offences) Act has received Royal Assent but has a roll-out period, meaning professionals can continue to use glue boards (as per the PMA Code of Best Practice) until some point in 2024
- The Glue Traps (Offences) Act only affects England, however Wales and Scotland have been very public about wanting to ban rodent glue traps
- BPCA successfully lobbied for the Glue Traps (Offences) Act to include a licensing provision for pest professionals, and Defra is currently working with Natural England to explore how this will work in practice
- The Agriculture (Wales) Bill includes a proposed total ban on glue boards with no exceptions for pest professionals
- Scotland is currently in consultation on glue boards (BPCA has submitted evidence on behalf of the sector)
- The Agriculture (Wales) Bill is now in stage 2, which is the final stage we can push for amendments, however the committee report from stage 1 has generally accepted the principles of the Bill.

In November, I represented the pest control industry at the Welsh Parliament Select Committee, and our evidence appeared to be well received.

Unfortunately, much of BPCA's evidence was dismissed out of hand by the committee stage report, despite support from UK Hospitality.

The report stated that:

- Local authorities in Wales do not use glue boards (however, only two local authorities that responded said they never use glue boards)
- One large pest control company has a "self-imposed" ban on glue boards and can still "capture problem rodents in all circumstances"
- Defra is having difficulties implementing a licensing scheme for pest professionals (in England), "most notably with the fact there is no Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code for pest controllers and no qualifications or licence is needed to work in that type of role. Therefore, determining a legitimate application for a licence to use a glue trap would prove very problematic, rendering the definition of who is exempt in the regulations very difficult".

The report concluded: "Having considered the Minister's letter alongside other evidence received, the Committee does not object to the proposals in the Bill on prohibiting the use of glue traps.

"[...] The Committee supports the provisions in Part 5 of the Bill to prohibit the use of glue traps".

We're obviously disappointed with the report's findings, although we're not surprised considering how strongly the Welsh government stated their aim to ban glue boards.

Our concerns now are that:

1. Scotland with follow Wales's lead with their approach to glue boards
2. Defra will reconsider its position regarding licensing (the legislation states that they "may grant a licence"). After all, if Wales and Scotland are united in approach, it'll be difficult for England to do something entirely different.

Where have we gone wrong as a sector?
Despite having BPCA and NPTA positions aligned, local authorities and even some individual pest control companies weren't singing from the same hymn sheet. This has undermined our argument that professional glue board treatments are essential for public health.

And, of course, the issue of licensing rears its head again. How much easier could this have been if pest professionals were licensed to practice rather than our toolkit managed piecemeal? Defra thinks we're a complicated sector to regulate, so instead, they'll restrict our tools rather than the individual professionals.

More broadly, pest management is still considered an environmental and animal health issue when it's clear that we must be aligned to a greater extent with public health and safety.

It's all a bit of a mess, really.
We'll continue to fight for glue boards (you might already have seen a scathing article in The Express supporting our position).

More generally, BPCA does want the sector to move towards licensed professionals to make it easier for legislators to trust us with dangerous and contentious tools in the name of public health. And as a sector, we need to invest more in engaging with politicians and showing them the vital public health service we provide our clients.

To be continued.

BPCA is currently challenging the UK Food Strategy, which makes no mention of pest control or IPM post-harvest.

We're also providing evidence for the Procurement Bill. We're encouraging politicians to make a series of changes that will help smaller businesses win more tenders.

To find a BPCA member visit: bpca.org.uk/find.

BPCA British Pest Control Association

NPTA national pest technicians association

NPTA 'On The Road'

Free hot dinners, free bacon butty breakfasts, exhibitor stands, enlightening training, lots of other pesties to swap stories with: what is there not to like about the National Pest Technicians' Association On The Road training days. These are held throughout the year around the UK and Ireland. This year the two new NPTA Technical Support Officers, Georgie Bail and Grahame Turner, are both delivering sessions, along with various other industry experts. The first On The Road of 2023 was held in Nottingham on 15th February, and was a rip-roaring success! Sixty delegates along with twenty exhibitors and trainers, gathered for an entertaining and stimulating learning experience. The topics covered at this event were:

Integrated Wasp Management
New NPTA Technical Support Officer, Grahame Turner, started the day with a very useful and informative session that included wasp biology, behaviour, prevention, physical control and chemical control. It was a broad overview of these fascinating pests that included lesser-known facts, along with technical, practical and thought-provoking tips on safe and effective management techniques.

Thermal Imaging
Mick Hayward of Fen Pest Control provided a technical presentation on thermal imaging cameras and how they can be utilized for saving labour and for financial gain in wildlife, rodent, bird and even insect management.

Bird Scaring
Georgie Bail, also a new NPTA Technical Support Officer, brought along Reba, her harris hawk. The duo gave an insightful presentation on how predator birds can be used in pest bird management. Georgie covered the equipment needed for keeping birds of prey, the difficulties of flying them and the enjoyment and rewards of working with them.

Social Media: Irritating Pest or Money-making Solution?

Business and marketing guru Lulu Gunter ran a lively, dynamic and eye-opening discussion on social media. There are lots of platforms out there with billions of users on each. They can be an excellent way to market your business, provided the right things are posted in the optimum way to the relevant users on the appropriate platform. Lulu provided some introductory guidance through the maze.

Risk Assessment Practical Workshop
IPM Central, in the form of Oliver Madge, conducted a practical and participative session for the full afternoon. The topic was risk management and dynamic specifications in professional pest management. Each table of delegates was given one of a series of pest infestation scenarios to analyse and assess cooperatively; and Oliver, Georgie and Grahame toured the tables throwing in ideas and conumdrums. Oliver then led a very thorough discussion of the surveys, pitfalls, proposed control techniques etc. that each team had thought of. This was a highly successful format that was deemed to be greatly beneficial by the participants and very much worthy of repeat. And participants had the opportunity to earn extra CPD points by completing an online quiz.

Event sponsors were Killgerm, ENVU, Syngenta, BASF, Deadline and PestFix. In the break times, between gulps of coffee or mouthfuls of gateau, delegates were able to probe the product specialists manning the stands regarding the intricacies of their product ranges. Industry experts abounded to pass on their knowledge.

Forthcoming further On The Road training days will be:

- North West on 1st March
- Scotland on 27th April
- North East on 24th May
- Northern Ireland on 27th June
- Southern Ireland on 29th June
- South East on 6th September
- South West on 11th October

The topics and presenters will vary depending on location. Other topics include: LED flykillers, remote monitoring and wildlife incidents. All members welcome: come and join us.

Enrapt attention for Oliver Madge's presentation

Georgie Bail and Reba delighting the audience

Lulu Gunter extolling the benefits of social media

Break clauses – the end of the world...

0113 245 0845 giles.ward@milnerslaw.com or uk.linkedin.com/pub/giles-ward/31/187/6b3 @MilnersGiles

As we know it?? No, not really as one always needs to put things into perspective, but getting a break clause wrong is perhaps the last absolute no–no in all things legal.

Previously, limitation deadlines which were the time limit as to when a claim had to be issued, were set in stone and to breach that deadline gave your opponent a pretty cast iron defense, irrespective of merits. However even these have become more sketchy and the court's discretion seems to be getting wider and more liberally applied.....but a break clause in a commercial lease stands out as shining light in an otherwise world of legal grey.

So what are break clauses? They are clauses in property contracts that specify the precise manner and form in which notice is to be given imposing specific and absolute requirements for service. Any deviation from the requirements will render the notice as invalid and non-binding.

Why are they so important? Quite simply because they allow either the tenant or landlord to end the lease early. Big deal I hear you say? well actually yes and for both parties alike, especially if you understand that the great and mighty corporate giants through to your start-ups have all fallen foul of such a simple contract provision with huge consequences. Take for example a corporate renting a few storeys of prime real estate in the city with a lease of say 10 years with a break clause at year 5. The rent is colossal as are the utilities, tax, and indeed service charges. Looking at the economic downturn and the fact that half of the millennials are demanding to work from home part of the week, the board quite rightly decide to downsize and capitalise on a potential lower rental expense, finding smaller (and cheaper) accommodation out of town whilst improving their virtual offerings to staff and clients. The corporate dusts off the lease, finds the break clause, and noting the specific form of notice to be given – duly serves the notice on the landlord, having signed up with their new landlord and committed themselves to another rent for a good few years.

The landlord having received the break clause notice does nothing but watches their tenant vacate their premises lock stock and barrel. All seems well and the date for exercising the break clause passes without incident with the old tenant now happily ensconced in their new smaller and cheaper premises. But all is not well and far from it. The unsuspecting tenant had forgotten to pay the last few weeks, or days rent right up to the time they were leaving in cleared funds, or decided not to pay having cancelled the direct debit and were sending a final payment once the date had passed. After all – it was only part of the rental period due and could be swept up with the meter readings and any balance of service charge etc.

Disaster strikes and the landlord writes explaining that the break clause is ineffective, and the tenant is still liable for the balance of the entire lease. Despite now leasing another building and having paid for all their removal costs, new IT, re-location of staff, PR, new corporate branding and launch for the new premises. One can easily see how this can and has proven fatal for large and small companies alike as the cash flow is now being stretched beyond breaking. And there is little or no way out.

Our property team have a triple lock on break clauses and diligently check and re-check both their drafting, their advice and execution of break clauses such is their very dangerous nature. It is perhaps their unassuming nature that lures so many businesses onto their unforgiving rocks.

And so some salutary advice – do not be caught unaware and seek advice. As a tenant - get your lawyer to take the risk on their insurance and draft the notice and/or advise as to how it is to be implemented and as a landlord, equally seek advice as to the drafting of any break clause and any notice served.

To discuss this or any other legal issues please feel free to call Giles ward at Milners Solicitors Leeds on 0113 245 0852 or e mail giles.ward@milnerslaw.com

Milners
Solution is everything

Killgerm TRAINING

2023 Training Dates

Your guide to pest control training events near you

Delivering High Quality Training

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.training**
There is also a full list in the Killgerm catalogue.
For further information or to book your place on a course call: 01924 268445 or email training@killgerm.com.

NORTHERN COURSES 2023

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
7th March 2023	Ossett	* £125/£155
4th April 2023	Ossett	* £125/£155
9th May 2023	Ossett	* £125/£155
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
5th & 6th April 2023	Ossett	* £180/£210
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
2nd March 2023	Kendal	* £55/£155
4th May 2023	Ossett	* £55/£155
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
14th March 2023	Holmes Chapel	£190 Inc lunch
2nd May 2023	Doncaster	£190 Inc lunch
23rd May 2023	Holmes Chapel	£190 Inc lunch
Bird Free		
24th May 2023	Ossett	£120 Inc lunch
Insect Identification		
18th May 2023	Ossett	£190 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
29th March 2023	Ossett	£190 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs & Fleas		
16th May 2023	Ossett	£155 Inc lunch
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees and Wasps		
21st March 2023	Ossett	£155 Inc lunch
PRACTICAL COURSES		
Trapping Techniques		
30th March 2023	Killamarsh	£155 Inc lunch

Course Charges
* Reduced rate applies to existing Killgerm customers who have reached a set minimum annual spend limit.

SOUTHERN COURSES 2023

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
EAST ANGLIA		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
14th March 2023	Norwich	* £125/£155
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
15th & 16th March 2023	Norwich	* £180/£210
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
4th April 2023	Norwich	* £55/£155
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees and Wasps		
5th April 2023	Norwich	£155 Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SURREY		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
7th March 2023	Lingfield	* £125/£155
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
8th & 9th March 2023	Lingfield	* £180/£210
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
18th April 2023	Reading	£190 Inc lunch
9th May 2023	Bisley	£190 Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BERKSHIRE & HAMPSHIRE		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
28th March 2023	Newbury	* £125/£155
30th May 2023	Newbury	* £125/£155
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
29th & 30th March 2023	Newbury	* £180/£210
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Flying Insect Management		
18th May 2023	Newbury	£155 Inc lunch
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
25th May 2023	Newbury	£190 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs & Fleas		
4th May 2023	Newbury	£155 Inc lunch
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
3rd May 2023	Newbury	£155 Inc lunch

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BRISTOL		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
25th April 2023	Bristol	* £125/£155
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
26th April 2023	Bristol	* £55/£155

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Drainage Investigations & Rat Control		
9th March 2023	Bristol	£190 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
24th May 2023	Bristol	£155 Inc lunch

Course Charges
* Reduced rate applies to existing Killgerm customers who have reached a set minimum annual spend limit.

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
MIDLANDS		
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
14th March 2023	Burton on Trent	* £125/£155
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
15th & 16th March 2023	Burton on Trent	* £180/£210
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Safe use of Air Weapons for Bird Control		
3rd May 2023	Kibworth	£190 Inc lunch
Flying Insect Management		
26th April 2023	Burton on Trent	£155 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 2 - Ants, Bees & Wasps		
27th April 2023	Burton on Trent	£155 Inc lunch

SCOTTISH COURSES 2023

Date	Venue	Cost plus VAT
BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PEST CONTROL		
Killgerm Principles of Rodent Control		
21st March 2023	Livingston	* £125/£155
16th May 2023	Livingston	* £125/£155
Killgerm Principles of Insect Control		
17th & 18th May 2023	Livingston	* £180/£210
REFRESHER COURSES		
Pest Control Refresher/Update		
20th April 2023	Livingston	* £55/£155
SPECIALIST COURSES		
Flying Insect Management		
25th May 2023	Livingston	£155 Inc lunch
INSECT WORKSHOPS		
Insect Workshop 1 - Bedbugs & Fleas		
10th May 2023	Livingston	£155 Inc lunch

Course Charges
* Reduced rate applies to existing Killgerm customers who have reached a set minimum annual spend limit.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND BRITISH PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £900 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)	
Venue: Ossett	
Units 1 to 3	Tuesday 13th to Tuesday 20th June 2023
Examination	Wednesday 21st June 2023
Venue: Ossett	
Unit 3	Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th October 2023
Unit 1	Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th October 2023
Unit 2	Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th October 2023
Examination	Wednesday 25th October 2023

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND BRITISH PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £900 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)	
Reigate	
Unit 3	Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st October 2023
Unit 1	Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th November 2023
Unit 2	Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th November 2023
Examination	Wednesday 15th November 2023

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND BRITISH PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION - LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT FEE - £900 + VAT per person (includes Killgerm manual, RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)	
Livingston	
Unit 3	Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th September 2023
Unit 1	Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th September 2023
Unit 2	Tuesday 26th & Wednesday 27th September 2023
Examination	Thursday 28th September 2023

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LEVEL 3 AWARD IN PEST MANAGEMENT. FEE - £800 + VAT per person (includes RSPH Exam, lunch & refreshments)
Venue: TBC
Training and Information day
Core Unit examination

Note this lists only a selection of course dates. Please visit our website for the full range of training courses:
www.killgerm.training

Some courses remain available online: **https://training.killgerm.com**

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You know when you're in safe hands!

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For use by professionals

AF® Amicus

Wildlife Conscious Rat Control

- In testing, there was no evidence of non-target species such as wood mice and bank voles entering the box.
- Slugs and snails are much less likely to enter, which helps to prevent rodenticide damage.
- When set to the correct height, the unique patented downward facing tubes naturally attract rats and allow them to climb up into the box, giving access to the rodenticides or traps inside.
- Accommodates many bait formulations and can also be used with break-back rat traps if required
- Readily accessible by the technician and with a removable door that also acts as a useful shelf, AF® Amicus will hold many of the usual types of rodenticides and traps.
- **The AF® Amicus stand is now available! The stand allows the box to be positioned away from a wall.**

For further information call:

01924 268420

Supporting a pest free environment.

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