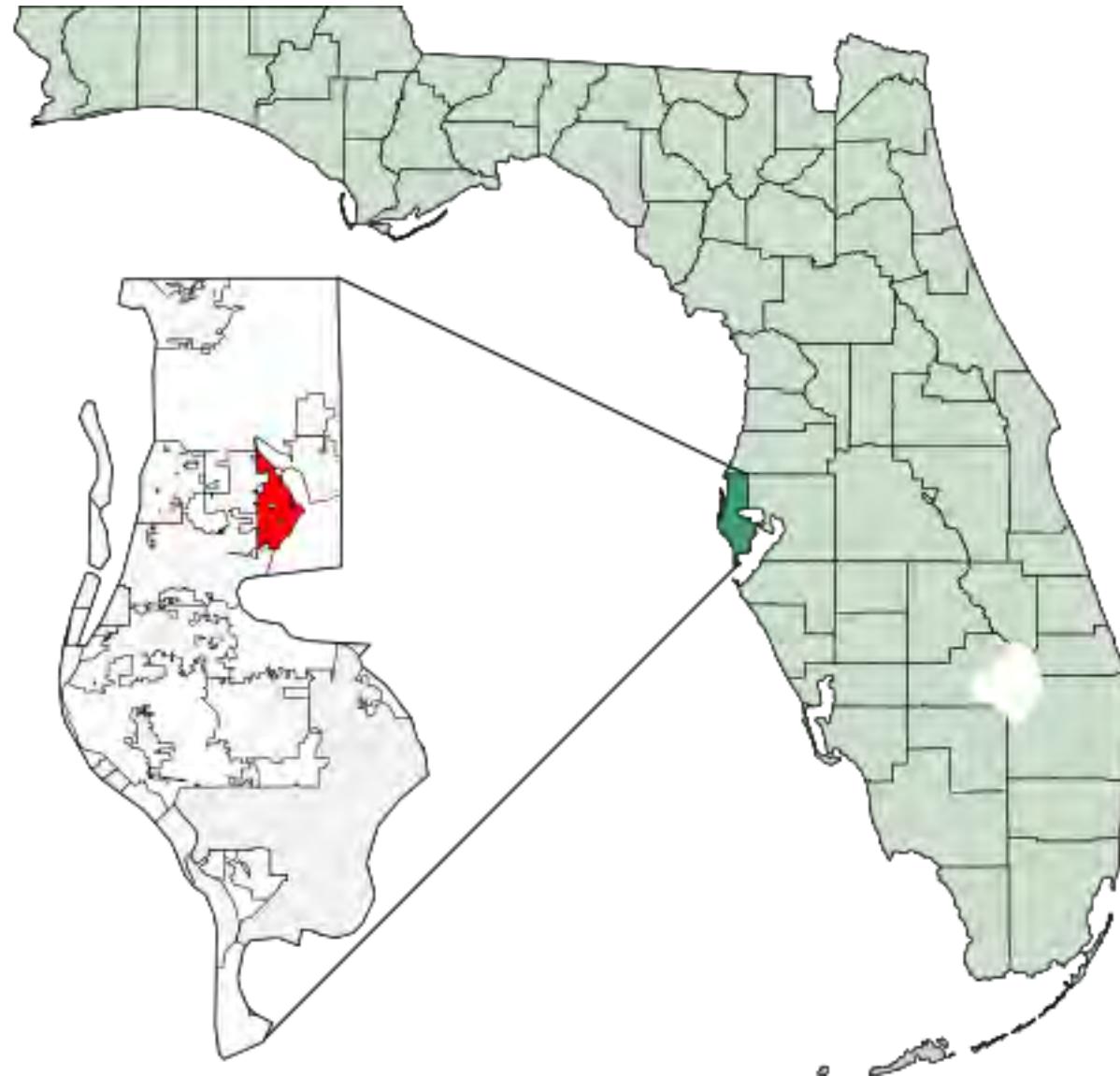




The Owls of Philippe Park

A Local Tragedy, A National Issue

Photo by Linda Schocken



Philippe Park in
Safety Harbor,
Florida



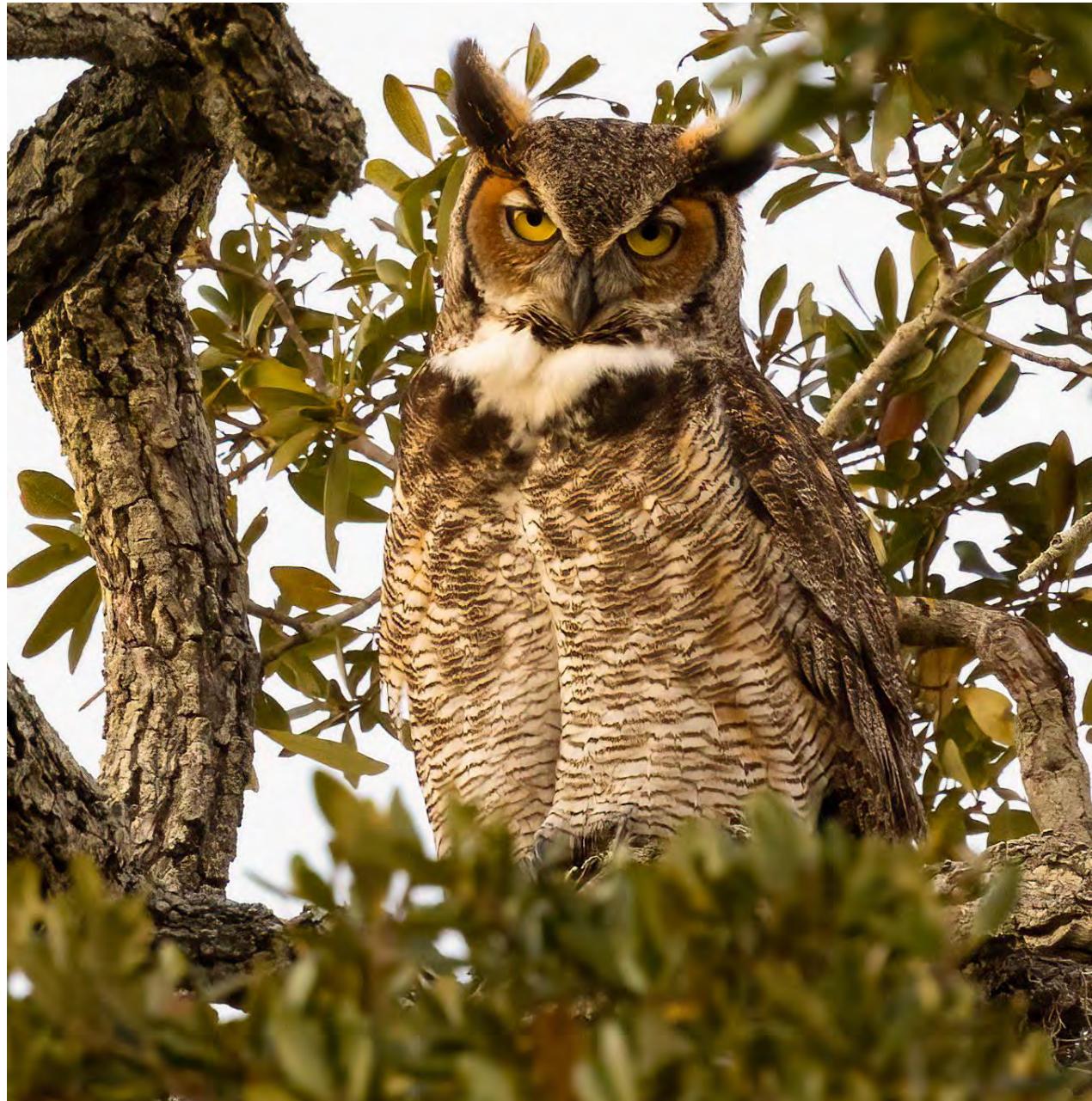
This is Oliver, the male with Emily, his mate.
Great Horned Owls mate for life.

Photo by Linda Schocken



Oliver nested in the park for eight years. During this time, he had two mates. Emily being his mate for the last two years before her demise.

Photo by Mark Schocken



Emily - Photo by Linda
Schocken

Photographers
came from all over
Florida and
numerous states to
photograph this owl
family. We have
friends from the UK
that added Safety
Harbor to their
itinerary to
photograph these
owls.



Owlets from 2021
Photo by Mark
Schocken



Daisy - photo by
Mark Schocken

What happened to the owls?

- In 2022, Emily hatched three owlets in early January 2022. We called them Huey, Dewy (later identified as Daisy) and Louie.
- Huey died on 3/4/2022, Emily died 3 days later, on 3/7/2022. Both deaths were confirmed to be caused by anticoagulant rodenticides.
- Louie was found dead in what we referred to as The Owl Tree on 4/5/2022.
- Oliver was found dead 3 days later. Results confirmed from rodenticide poisoning.
- There was one, 3-month-old owlet left, Daisy; we tracked her for almost 3 weeks; then she disappeared.



This is one of the last photos we have of Daisy before the day she disappeared.

There could be however, a happy story here. Stay tuned!



The day Emily died we realized that the City of Safety Harbor was using anticoagulant rodenticides on all city properties – suddenly we could see there were black boxes of rat poison everywhere

In less than 24 hours...

- A handful of concerned citizens met each other under the Owl Tree—it was Fateful
- That night we started a Facebook group called Safety Harbor Strong Owls – 500 people joined the group within 3 days (now at over 2,000 members)



Learn More

Safety Harbor Strong Owl and Nature
facebook.com/groups/226335709651892

Raptors are the Solution
www.raptorsarethesolution.org

BIRDS IN HELPING HANDS

BIRDSINHELPINGHANDS.ORG

727-365-4592

BIRDSINHELPINGHANDS@gmail.com



DEATH BY POISON

Rat poison is often used in bait stations, those shoebox size black boxes you see around buildings and dumpsters. The rats and mice do not die inside the stations but after eating the bait, they go back into the wild and can take more than a week to die. Weakened from internal bleeding, poisoned rodents become toxic ticking time bombs for any animal who preys on them.

All types of rodent poison can sicken and kill wildlife and pets.

Do Use

Safer Products

Bromethalin

Examples:
- Fastrac
- Assault

Cholecalciferol

Examples:
- Terad3

Don't Use

Unsafe Products

Brodifacoum

Example: d-Con

Bromadiolone

Example: Contrac

Chlorophacinone

Example: Ratol

Difenacoum

Example: Di-Kill Rat Bait

Difethialone

Example: First Strike

Diphacinone

Example: TomCat

We developed a brochure and posters to help educate the citizens concerning this issue.

Rat Poison Kills More Than Rats!



Joe Cohn

Rat poison kills more than rats! Poisoned rats are weakened and come out of the poison bait boxes (or their burrows, once poisoned) looking for water. When predators such as owls, hawks, foxes, or even cats and dogs eat these poisoned rats, they too can be poisoned.



- The City of Safety Harbor mailed our brochures to every resident of the City as a utility bill insert.
- The Mayor commented on the risks of poisoning wildlife and pets and asked everyone to stop using anticoagulant rodenticides.
- The issue was the cover of the quarterly Safety Harbor Magazine.
- The Mayor additionally posted the article on his social media site, which generated over 2,500 “Likes”, and over 250 “shares”, indicating the broad appeal and political support of the issue (The Mayor was astounded, no other issue every got him as much social media attention).

Media Coverage



NEWS

Experts: Philippe Park's famous owl family likely killed by rat poison

BY JOSH ROJAS | TAMPA

PUBLISHED 8:19 PM ET APR. 08, 2022



Pets

Beloved Mother Owl, Babies Die From Rat Poison In Safety Harbor Park

Emily, a great horned owl, and two of her owlets are the unintended victims of pesticides placed around businesses to kill rats.



D'Ann Lawrence White, Patch Staff

Posted Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 8:35 am ET
Updated Sun, Apr 10, 2022 at 7:05 pm ET

Replies (10)



- The Team developed the idea of providing a Certificate of Recognition and we highlight the companies on our Facebook page as “owl-friendly” heroes.
- Given to businesses that agree to stop using anticoagulant rodenticides.
- A team is contacting pesticide companies and asking them not to use anticoagulant rodenticides. If they confirm and prove that they are using only “safe” products, we present them with this certificate and give them lots of publicity.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS
PRESENTED TO

Vital Planet

BY

Birds In Helping Hands

In recognition of the efforts
Eckerd College has made to
protect the environment by
eliminating the use of
anticoagulant rat poison

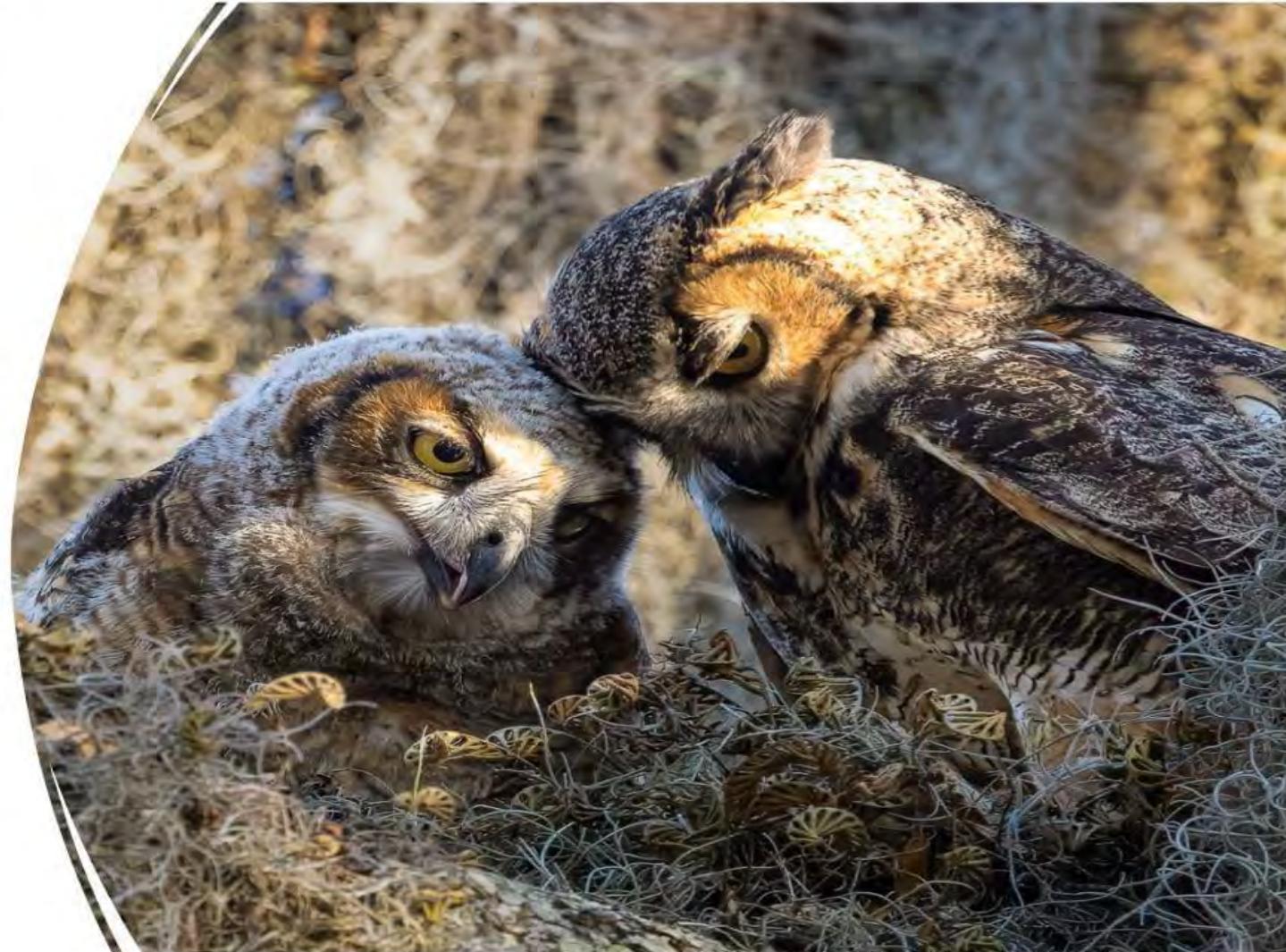


Photo by Linda Schocken – ©Schocken Photography

In memory of Emily and Huey

The Truth About Anticoagulant Rat Poison

Dozens of scientific studies have found rat poisons are present in the tissues of a wide variety of wildlife, including owls. Rat poison also kills dogs and cats. Rat poison leads to a painful death for all animals who are exposed to it, whether they consume the poison directly or eat the flesh of a poisoned animal. Rat poison kills the very wildlife that helps us control rats and mice.



Nature's Pest Control

One adult owl can eat 1,000 to 1,200 rats in one year.

Rats, mice, and other small animals play a critical role in the ecosystem as food for many animals and as seed dispersers for trees and plants.

Using poison to kill rodents has the long-term effect of **INCREASING** the rodent population since the poison kills off the rodents' natural predators, such as owls, allowing the rodents to breed unchecked.



Photo by Mark Schocken

Nature's Pest Control

By using preventative measures and safer rodenticides, we can keep rodents out of our homes and businesses, protect our pets and keep the rodents in the wild where they belong.



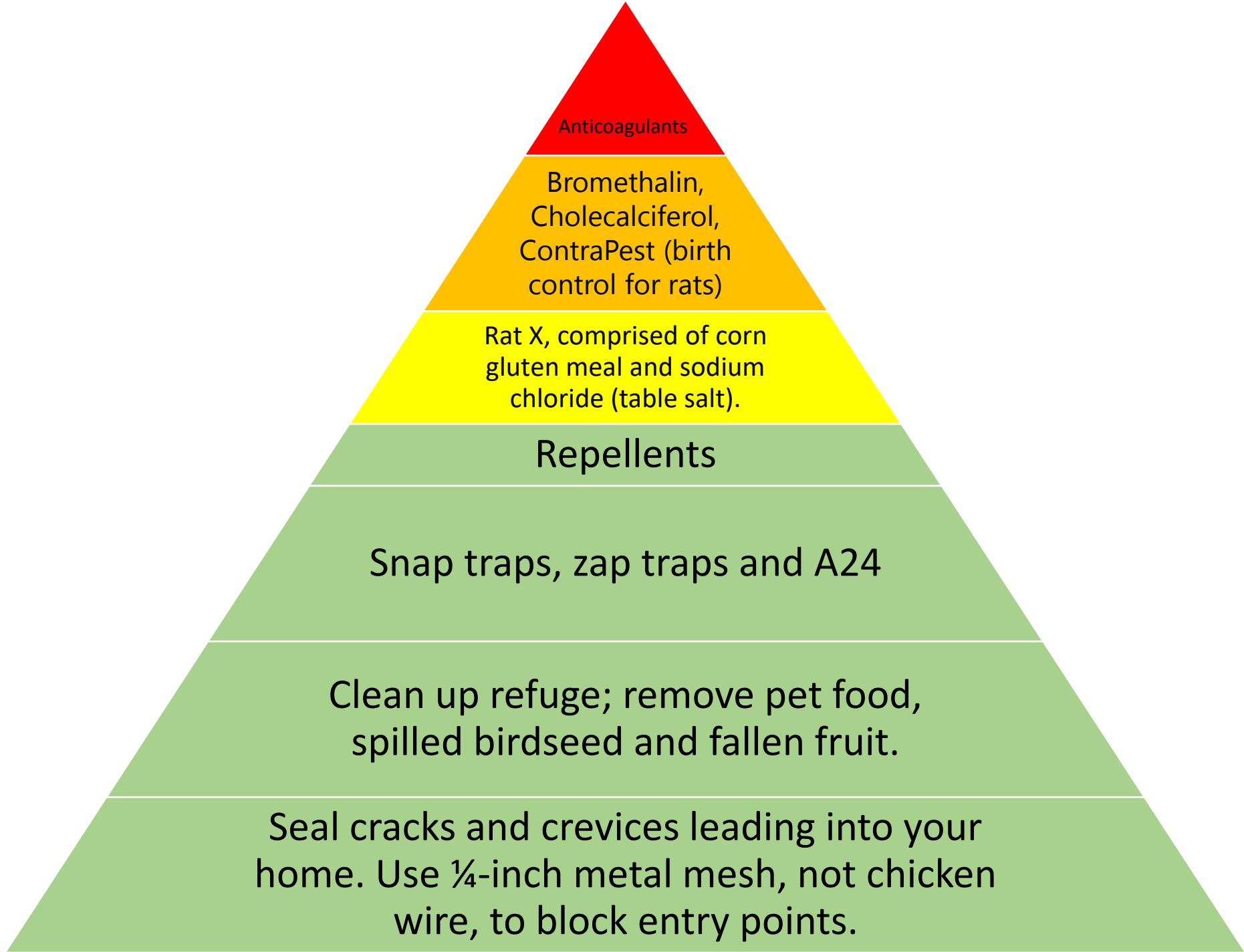
Photo by Linda Schocken

What you can do!

- Keep trash bins tightly closed, clean up refuse; remove pet food, spilled birdseed and fallen fruit
- Seal cracks and crevices leading into your home. Use $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch metal mesh, not chicken wire, to block entry points
- Trim foliage and tree limbs at least 2 feet away from sides and roofs of houses
- Use an owl box; ultrasonic devices, “mouse balls”
- If you need to hire a professional, only hire exterminators who do not use anticoagulant rodenticides and who use and are trained in Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM works to permanently exclude rats by rodent proofing your home.



Photo by Linda Schocken





In Memory of Emily and
Oliver and their family.

Current Situation in the Park – Odie and Dory

