

Board of Pesticides Control  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0028

November 27, 2022

Dear Board Members of Pesticides Control:

Our beloved dog, Starling, was sickened by poison and died several years ago.

Our dogs have access to a chain-link fenced-in yard. Our neighbor had a mouse problem and hired a professional exterminator who put bait boxes around the exterior of her home. We live in a very rural part of Bridgton. Although we cannot prove that it was this poison that killed Starling, around the time that the bait boxes were put outside (and we were not aware of this initially), we found that squirrels, mice, and chipmunks were sick and dying around us. Starling was elderly and was sick for many months with liver damage before she died. Needless to say, we are now very attentive about making sure that the dogs' enclosure is free of sick or dead wildlife. Our neighbor has refused to use a different method of mouse control much to our dismay.

After Starling got sick, I (Lega) started doing research on the various brands that are sold over the counter and I am stunned that these contain very toxic poisons that also kill non-target animals, such as fox, raccoons, owls, hawks, and pets that feed on the poisoned rats and mice. As a side note, I noticed that the rodenticide Tomcat's website ([tomcatbrand.com](http://tomcatbrand.com)) had reviews that were all very positive so I sent in a comment that noted that this poison is nonselective and is indeed toxic to children, pets, and wildlife. The infuriating response that I received shortly afterwards shows that the company is aware of this issue but cares only about deceiving the public. ***"Our staff has read your review and values your contribution even though it did not meet all our website guidelines. Thanks for sharing, and we hope to publish next time"***.

What is the solution to rodent control? Education and prevention are the best cures and your website does a very good job but I doubt that many people consult this website before purchasing these poisons especially since they are so easily available and their safety is exaggerated on the packaging. Most brands are touted as "mouse killer" and "resistant to weather and to tampering by children and dogs". .....a perfect solution to a mouse/rat/mole problem but look at the fine print or go on-line to the manufacturer's website and the warnings are alarming.

The following is typical of statements found on manufacturers' websites.

***"CAUTION: ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS: This product is extremely toxic to mammals and birds. Children, dogs, cats and other predatory and scavenging mammals and birds might be poisoned if they feed upon animals that have eaten this bait. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash water. Wear waterproof gloves when retrieving carcasses***

*or unused bait. Keep and wash clothing separately from other laundry. Wash hands thoroughly after applying bait and before eating, drinking, chewing gum.”*

It is our hope that your committee works toward banning poisons for use in and around homes and promoting simple, yet very effective, ways to control rodents that don't harm non-target species. We spoke with our veterinarian and a wildlife rehabilitator and they are all too familiar with sick or dead eagles, hawks, foxes that ate poisoned rodents. Is it not foolish to poison predators that are the natural killers of rodents which are, in turn, the primary transmitters of ticks and Lyme disease? Also, our well is about 200 feet from where some of this poisoned bait was deposited. How is this safe?

Maine could be a leader in stopping the proliferation of poison especially since there are alternatives. We hope that your committee will do the following:

1. Restrict the sale of poisons.
2. Environmental hazards and warnings need to be very conspicuous on the packaging **and not in fine print.**
3. Poison should not be allowed where it may contaminate wells. What is a safe distance?
4. These products are not safe, so manufacturers should not claim that they are.
5. Commercial exterminators need to notify abutters that poisons are in use, especially when they are located outdoors.
6. The board needs to create a massive campaign that promotes the use of snap-traps which are very effective, cheap, don't harm non-target wildlife, and kill humanely.

Thank you for your attention to this,

Sincerely,

Lega and Jim Medcalf  
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207-647-2366 or 207-595-8560

**From:** Tomcat Customer Experience [mailto:noreply-tomcat@bazaarvoice-cgc.com]  
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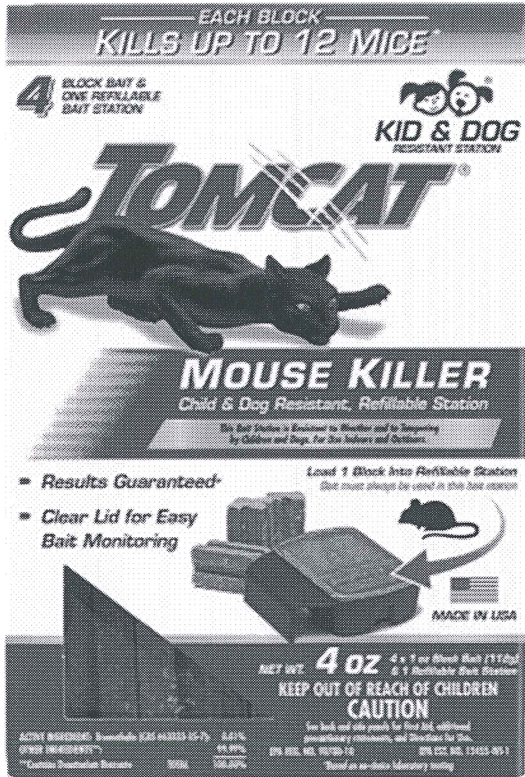
It cannot be published to the website, but..



Our staff has read your review and values your contribution even though it did not meet all our website guidelines. Thanks for sharing, and we hope to publish next time!

**[Submit something new](#)**

Thanks again,  
**Tomcat**



**Kills other mammals that feed on sick or dead mice**

Evil product. Will also kill pets, fox, owls, bobcat, and other predators. Use a mouse trap. Don't poison the environment.

[Contact Customer Service](#) with questions or concerns. If you no longer wish to receive notifications like this, you can [unsubscribe](#) any time.

This email was sent by: **Tomcat**  
 14111 Scottslawn Rd, Marysville, OH, 43040, United States

