

RESOLUTION NO. 13-49

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX, CALIFORNIA IN
OPPOSITION TO THE SALE AND PURCHASE OF RAT AND MOUSE POISONS
DEEMED AN UNREASONABLE RISK TO CHILDREN, PETS AND WILDLIFE**

WHEREAS, In 1998 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued its registration Eligibility Decisions (REDS) for rodenticides, and expressed concern about accidental human exposures to rodenticide as well as risks to wildlife; and

WHEREAS, In September 2004, the U.S. EPA released its Revised Comparative Ecological Assessment for nine rodenticides, which found more than 300 documented wildlife incidents of exposure of birds and non-target mammals, including endangered species, to rodenticides, in particular those rodenticides that contain the ingredient brodifacoum; and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2012 UC Davis and the Integral Ecology Research Center published a study, "Anticoagulant Rodenticides on our Public and Community Lands: Spatial Distribution of Exposure and Poisoning of Rare Forest Carnivore" , revealing that in Humboldt and Trinity Counties, thirteen of eighteen Pacific Fishers studied were exposed to anticoagulant rodenticide; and

WHEREAS, Rodenticide poisonings have been documented in at least 25 wildlife species in California including: San Joaquin Kit Foxes, Pacific Fishers, Golden Eagles, Bobcats, Mountain Lions, Black Bears, Coyotes, Gray Foxes, Red Foxes, Cooper's Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, Kestrels, Barn Owls, Great Horned Owls, Long-eared Owls, Western Screech Owls, Spotted Owls, Swainson's Hawks, Raccoons, Skunks, Squirrels, Opossums, Turkey Vultures and Crows; and

WHEREAS, the secondary killing of raptors and other natural rodent predators caused by rodenticides can actually increase rat populations; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Poison Control Centers annually receives between 12,000 and 15,000 reports of children under the age of six being exposed to rodenticides; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the U.S. EPA issued its Final Risk Mitigation Decision of Ten Rodenticides and gave producers until June 2011 to research, develop and register new products that would be safer for children, pets and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, several companies, including Reckitt Benckiser, Inc. (D-Con, Fleeject and Mimas), Spectrum Group (Hot Shot) and Liphatech, Inc. (Generation, Maki and Rozol), have recently advised the U.S. EPA that they do not intend to adopt the new safety measures; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous ways to mitigate mouse and rate damage to agricultural crops such as placing bowls of fresh water beside gardens; protecting the base of plant stalks with plastic pipe or wire mesh; and using snap traps and havahart traps;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax urges Fairfax businesses to stop the sale of all products containing the following ten rodenticides: Brodifacoum, Bromadiolone, Bromethalin, Chlorophacinone, Cholecalciferol, Difenacoum, Difethialone, Diphacinone, Warfarin and Zinc phosphide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax urges Fairfax residents to avoid buying products containing the above chemicals and to use less toxic rodent control methods.

The foregoing Resolution was duly introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 4th day of September 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

JOHN REED, MAYOR

Attest:

Michele Gardner, Town Clerk