



October 14, 2020

Chewy.com  
343 Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02210  
Att'n: Sumit Singh, CEO

**Re: Chewy's sale of rodenticide products**

Dear Mr. Singh:

We, the undersigned organizations, are dismayed and disheartened to learn that Chewy, Inc., which promotes itself as caring about animals, is doing just the opposite by offering for sale "Farnam Rodentex Multi-Feed Bars." The active ingredient in these "bars" is diphacinone, a rodenticide that poses a high risk of secondary poisoning to both pets and wild animals, especially mammals. We urge Chewy to immediately halt the sale of this dangerous product.

Anticoagulant rodenticides pose a significant threat to wildlife and other animals. Rodents consume these highly toxic substances and then poison the non-target pets and wildlife that consume the rodents themselves. The use of bait boxes does not prevent such poisoning, as exposed rodents do not remain in the boxes but continue to roam freely. Avian predators such as owls, hawks and eagles and mammals such as mountain lions, coyotes and bobcats that feed on rodents or other animals who may have consumed these poisons are especially vulnerable.

Recent studies reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife show that 70 to 90 percent of tested wildlife had rodenticides in their systems. The poisoned wildlife include threatened or endangered species such as kit foxes, Pacific fishers and Santa Monica mountain lions. In August, the National Park Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced that rodenticides—in particular, anticoagulant rat poisons including diphacinone—

were responsible for the deaths of an adult female bobcat and a subadult male mountain lion. Acknowledging these incontestable facts and the increasing public condemnation of the use of deadly rat poison, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 1788 into law on September 29<sup>th</sup>, which will effectively place a moratorium on second generation rodenticides throughout California.

Chewy's own Pet Central website warns of the danger rat poisons pose to pets (see "[When Dogs Eat Rat Poison](#)," which asserts, "Without intensive care including a plasma transfusion, (eating rat poison) is often fatal."). Sadly, instances of dogs consuming rat poison, either directly or secondarily, are commonplace and heart-wrenching, as many do not survive the experience.

To protect our beloved pets and wildlife, it is imperative that Chewy take immediate action to remove this hazardous product from its product line.

Sincerely,



Camilla H. Fox  
Founder & Executive Director  
Project Coyote



John Hadidian, Ph.D.  
Science Advisory Board  
Project Coyote

And on behalf of:

Lisa Owens Viani, Raptors Are the Solution  
Jennifer Hauge, Animal Legal Defense Fund  
Debra Chase, Mountain Lion Foundation  
Joel & Kian Schulman, Poison Free Malibu  
Christine Renau, Poison Free Calabasas  
Nickolaus Sackett, Social Compassion in Legislation  
Lisa Levinson, In Defense of Animals