



# **TOWN OF NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS RODENTICIDE POLICY**

**Approved and Adopted by the Newbury Select Board, January 23, 2024**

The Town of Newbury, through its Select Board, has adopted the following policy concerning the use of certain rodenticide products, widely known as Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides, or SGARs. SGARs are used to control rats and/or mice but have been clearly demonstrated to be harmful to nontarget predator species. This causes harm to our larger ecosystem, and the secondary poisoning of natural predators of the target pests can have a counterproductive long-term impact on rodent control efforts.

Whereas the Town of Newbury is committed to reducing unnecessary wildlife poisonings and potential harm to pets and children, this policy aims to specifically codify the application and use of SGARs at properties under the care and control of the Town of Newbury.

### **Section A: Applicability**

This policy applies to all Town-owned property, including buildings, grounds, parks, open spaces, and the public right of way, and shall be adhered to by all employees of the Town of Newbury, as well as third party vendors and contractors providing services at Town-owned property.

### **Section B: Definitions**

1. Rodenticides - A subclass of pesticides, defined under the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act, General Laws Chapter 132B, as substances or mixtures of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate rodents that are declared to be pests by the Massachusetts pesticide board.
2. SGAR – Acronym of Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide, rodenticides developed to control rodents that are resistant to First Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides and contain compounds that interfere with blood clotting and cause death from excessive bleeding while also remaining in animal tissues for an extended period of time. These products currently include, but are not limited to, those products containing brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone.

### **Section C: Use of SGAR**

The use of SGARs on Town-owned properties is hereby prohibited as of the effective date of this policy.

### **Section D: Emergency Waivers**

Emergency waivers for the use of SGARs on Town-owned property may be obtained from Health Department. Emergency waivers shall be restricted in time and location and shall only be granted after a well-documented request detailing a significant rodent infestation of public health consequence that has already exhausted all viable less-toxic integrated pest and rodent management practices. Any waivers granted under this section shall be published on the Town's website.

**Section E: Effective Date**

The effective date of this policy is the date that this the Newbury Select Board approved and adopted this policy.