

# **New Code of Best Practice for Glue Boards**

## **Developed by the Pest Management Alliance**

In July of 2009, three MPs, Alan Meale, Bill Etherington and Peter Bottomley, tabled a motion in the House of Commons on the use of glue traps in the UK. The motion read:

"That this House is aware that pest controllers who are members of the British Pest Control Association are currently subject to a voluntary code on the use of rodent traps, which includes the direction that distributors should not supply glue boards to persons who are not trained or competent in pest control practices; notes that a wild mammal is protected by the provisions of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 but also that this law does not cover animals caught in inhumane glue traps which cause them much unnecessary suffering; and believes that the Government should follow the lead of many other parliaments worldwide and recognise the cruelty of such practices by introducing legislation to ban their use in the UK".

The pest management industry in the UK recognises that, in the hands of untrained persons, glue boards can be used inappropriately and in a manner that can become inhumane. It shares the concern of animal welfare groups that glue boards are readily available for untrained persons to buy either in retail premises or on the internet.

However, the industry believes that a ban, if applied to professional users, will have a significantly adverse and unnecessary effect on the pest management industry's ability to protect public health.

As a result, the Pest Management Alliance, which consists of the British Pest Control Association, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, National Pest Technicians Association and UK Pest Controllers Organisation met to consider how best to deal with the threat to the use of glue boards by professional pest controllers.

Following consultations with Defra and Natural England, a new code of best practice has been drawn up and is now being circulated to pest controllers. This should be adopted for use by members and replaces the previous BPCA Code of Practice for the use of rodent glue boards.

The full, finalised code (publication date - February 2010) can be download in this website (PDF 64kb).