



National Pest Technicians Association

NPTA Code of Practice for the Humane Use of Rodent Boards – April 2009

The use of rodent glue boards raises valid concerns since rodents caught on such boards remain alive and may cause the animal unnecessary suffering. However, it is recognised that such products may be necessary in certain situations and the NPTA wishes to see rodent glue boards retained as an option for professional pest controllers.

In order to preserve Public Health, it is important that as many tools as possible are retained for use by the professional. However, the use of such products should only be considered as a 'last choice' option.

The following Code of Practice for the use of such products is proposed:

1. LAST CHOICE OPTION

All other options for rodent control should be considered before adopting rodent boards and written records must show that other control systems are either considered inappropriate or have failed prior to the adoption of rodent boards as a method of control.

2. CHECK DAILY

Where rodent boards are laid these must be inspected at appropriate intervals. This will be at least once daily. Arrangements may be made for boards to be checked by a third party, for example site personnel. Such arrangements should be documented.

3. PROTECT NON-TARGET SPECIES

Boards must be placed in such a manner that they do not present a hazard to non-target species and that they may be retrieved and removed at the end of the exercise.

4. USE THE CORRECT SIZE FOR THE PEST SPECIES

The size of the board should be consistent with the target species. For example, a rat caught on a board laid for mice may still be able to move the board from its location, making it impossible for the technician to retrieve and despatch the rat.

5. KEEP WRITTEN RECORDS

Records should be kept of all boards laid to ensure traceability.

6. DESPATCH OF TRAPPED RODENTS HUMANELY

Rodents trapped on rodent boards must be despatched quickly and humanely. This may be achieved by quick and positive dislocation of the neck. Lethal chambers may be used provided that the gas introduced is approved for that purpose. Drowning is not an acceptable method of despatch.

7. REMOVE BOARDS AT THE END OF TREATMENT

All rodent boards must be removed by the technician at the end of the exercise and the records endorsed accordingly.

8. DISPOSE OF BOARDS SAFELY

Rodent boards should be disposed of with care. If it is not possible to incinerate the boards, the sticky surface should be covered so as to avoid the accidental trapping of non-target animals.

9. TRAINED & COMPETENT

Technicians must be given adequate training and be competent in the effective and humane use of this technique. Any third party delegated to check boards on behalf of the pest control company should be similarly trained and competent.

Failure to comply with the above Code of Practice could lay the pest controller open to bad publicity and possible prosecution. This could lead to the removal of this form of control.