



# TOWN OF TOPSFIELD

## Select Board

*8 West Common Street, Topsfield, Massachusetts 01983*

The Town of Topsfield, through its Select Board, has adopted the following policy concerning the use of certain rodenticide products, widely known as Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides, 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 Topsfield 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 Topsfield, excluding schools.

### **Section A: Applicability**

This policy applies to all Town-owned property, including buildings, grounds, parks, open spaces, and the public right of way, but excluding schools, and shall be adhered to by all employees of the Town of Topsfield, 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 1328, 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**

“The applicant, with the approval of the Select Board with a recommendation from the Board of Health, shall by regulation establish a process and standards for the limited use of anticoagulant rodenticides by licensed applicators in public health emergencies, provided that such process and standards provide for one-time indoor use to address an urgent public health emergency, as determined by the local department of public health and such use shall: (i) be

limited to 14 days; (ii) be accompanied by Integrated Pest Management actions that include non-chemical methods and exclusionary measures to control rodents; (iii) require additional labeling of anticoagulant rodenticides used, including but not limited to, the name of the rodenticide clearly labeled on any bait box; (iv) require complete written rationale for the need for second generation anticoagulant rodenticides over other non-toxic short-term alternatives; and (v) require pest management applicators to provide a complete written report to the department after the 14-day emergency use period and include a plan for ongoing rodent control at the location.”

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 the Topsfield Select Board approved and adopted this policy.