

PRESS RELEASE from Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (Irl)

Booklet on Rodent Pest Control in Rearing and Managing Game Birds now published

A booklet entitled *Rodent Pest Control in Rearing and Managing Game Birds* has just been published by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) Ireland. The purpose of this booklet is to examine the impact of rats in game management and to describe and recommend ways of dealing with it. It raises awareness of the issue of wildlife contamination with rodenticides and the pathways of exposure. The use of rodenticides can lead to the exposure of non-target wildlife such as top predators like Barn Owls, Kestrels and Red Kites and there is growing evidence that such wildlife contamination is increasing.

This booklet outlines in detail best practice in rodent control and provides information and advice to gun club members and those who rear and manage game birds. It points out that rodenticides should only be used as a last resort and not as the basis for the first approach to their control. Shooting, trapping using cage traps and hunting with terriers, which have always been the traditional methods of rat control by gun clubs, are preferable.

The correct use of rodenticides, where such use is warranted, is detailed in the booklet. It is emphasised that it is a legal requirement to follow product label instructions for the specific bait being used. This will forestall possible calls on the regulators to restrict further their marketing and use and will help to keep this important pest control method available for game bird management.

The booklet is available to download from the CRRU Ireland website www.crru.ie

For more information on the **Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use** in Ireland log on to www.crru.ie or call Eanna Ni Lamhna on 087 6147506

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