

# The Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use in Ireland (CRRU Ireland)

CRRU Ireland was launched in September 2013. Its aim is the protection of wildlife while promoting and providing effective rodent control through the responsible use of rodenticides in rural, semi-urban and urban settings. It is a not for profit organization operating in both the UK and in Ireland. CRRU Ireland involves nine companies all of which are Irish rodenticide product authorization holders and major manufacturers /distributors of rodenticides.

There are important concerns about the use of rodenticide in Ireland. These include concerns about the exposure of wildlife to compounds used in vertebrate pest control and the widespread distribution of low-level non-lethal residues of anticoagulants in top predator species of birds of prey. Recent research in Ireland has revealed that 85% of Barn Owls contain low levels of rodenticides in their tissues, rodenticides that were ingested from their prey species - brown rats and mice. It is also of concern that rodenticides have been detected in non-mammal eating species such as peregrine falcons and sparrowhawks. These rodenticides entered their food chains in slugs and snails that fed on poisoned bait and in turn were eaten by bird species preyed on by these top predator birds of prey.

In order to address these issues CRRU Ireland has organised training courses for pest management technicians which lead to Wildlife Aware accreditation. To date there are 103 wildlife aware accredited technicians in Ireland and following two recent successful courses on 1 and 6 October that number will increase.

CRRU Ireland has been successful in ensuring that GLAS – the new Agri-Environment scheme for farmers – specifies that participants should comply with the CRRU code in their daily farming activities.

CRRU Ireland holds three meetings per year with its stakeholders who comprise all those for whom the work of CRRU is relevant – representatives of Industry, Food Safety, Environmental Organisations, Government Departments, Farmers' Organisations etc. The most recent meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> July. At this meeting the attendees were updated with news of progress. There was an update on EU regulatory matters, a report on wildlife incidents and the imminent publication of the RAPTOR reports for 2012, 2013 and 2014 was flagged. These were subsequently published in early September and contain full details on wildlife incidents that include incidents involving detection of rodenticides in the carcasses of birds of prey analysed each year.

There was a report from the working Group of the CRRU Irl Code of Best Practice and comments on the draft code were invited. CRRU Irl is supporting the survey on the extent and distribution of anti-coagulant resistance in rodent pest species in Ireland – a survey which has now commenced from 1 October.

The next meeting will be held on 26 November.

The CRRU website is [www.thinkwildlife.org](http://www.thinkwildlife.org)