

## Brochure Comments

I like most of Linda's text, it feels more specific to Marco. I would recommend combining the two.

Use Linda's text, the photos from my draft, and combine the section about alternatives from both documents so it is all inclusive (important to note that the zapper and snap traps are indoor use only), add the text on the specific types of rat poison from mine to the same section in Linda's, add in the starter burrow program to the alternatives (owls are good pest control as long as the pests are not full of rodenticide), and add the other resources details.

Thanks.

Jim

The initial draft of the brochure looks great. John

Keep me posted if anyone has the adobe dc software and skill to create or edit a brochure and which direction we want to go. Personally, I still feel that the edited brochure is not Marco Island specific enough and lacks information on the safe alternatives.

Linda

Is this brochure for Marco Island or we are NOW including Collier County. Is this Campaign

Including Collier County - if that is the case - we need to reach out to Collier County and get their input!

It was my understanding this is a brochure funded by the City of Marco Island through our budget!

Collier County is the largest county in Florida by land area. It covers approximately 2,305 square miles, making it significantly larger than many other counties in the state.

**"Between 2022–2024, 93% of tested burrowing owls in Collier County had rodenticide in their systems."**

Maria

## **RAT POISON IS WILDLIFE POISON**

*Use Safe Alternatives to Protect Marco Island's Wildlife*

## Why This Matters

Marco Island is known for its warm climate, stunning beaches, and incredible wildlife. From burrowing owls and bald eagles to sea turtles and gopher tortoises, this unique ecosystem depends on a healthy balance.

But there's a hidden threat: **rat poison (rodenticide)**.

## The Hidden Danger of Rodenticides

Rodenticides are commonly used around homes, condos, and businesses to control rats. These poisons are typically placed in bait boxes, where rodents consume them and eventually die.

However, the danger doesn't stop there.

- Predators like **owls, hawks, and eagles** often eat poisoned rats
- These animals then ingest the poison themselves
- This leads to serious illness or death in wildlife

### **Shocking statistic:**

Between 2022–2024, **93% of tested burrowing owls in Collier County had rodenticide in their systems.**

## There Is No “Safe” Rodenticide

While there are different types of rat poison, **none are safe for wildlife.**

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides are especially harmful and long-lasting.

## Safer, Effective Alternatives

You can control rodents without harming wildlife. Consider these options:

- **Scent deterrents** (peppermint, cayenne pepper)
- **Fertility control products**
- **CO<sub>2</sub> traps**
- **Snap or electronic (zapper) traps** (when safely enclosed)

Ask your pest control provider about these safer solutions.

## Prevent Rats Before They Start

Good prevention is one of the most effective strategies:

**Rodent-proof your property:**

- Seal small openings (rats can squeeze through tiny gaps!)
- Repair vents, screens, and cracks

**Manage trash properly:**

- Store garbage in tightly sealed containers
- Remove food sources and yard debris
- Eliminate standing water



**What You Can Do**

- Ask your pest control provider what products they use
- Request **non-toxic alternatives** if rodenticides are being applied
- Spread awareness in your community



**Protect What Makes Marco Island Special**

By choosing safer pest control methods, you help protect the island's treasured wildlife—especially burrowing owls, hawks, and eagles.

**Your choices make a difference.**

*Together, we can keep Marco Island safe for both people and wildlife.*