

## Rodenticide Key Messages

- Marco Island is a special place due, in part, to our local wildlife.
- Between 2022 and 2024, 54 of 58 deceased burrowing owls examined, or 93%, tested positive for rodenticide or rat poison.
- There are multiple types of rodenticide, but none are safe for other wildlife, such as owls, eagles, and hawks that prey on rats.
- Effective alternatives to rodenticide exist and include scent deterrents (e.g. cayenne pepper and peppermint), fertility control products, CO2 traps, and snap or zapper traps when contained.
- Understand what rodent control, if any, is being used on your property and ensure that going forward you are using an alternative that is safe for local wildlife.
- Rodent proofing your property by eliminating points of entry for rodents can be done by hiring a local pest control professional or on your own.
- Trash management is essential as rats are attracted to your property by food and water. Keep food, garbage, and garden debris in containers with tight fitting lids.