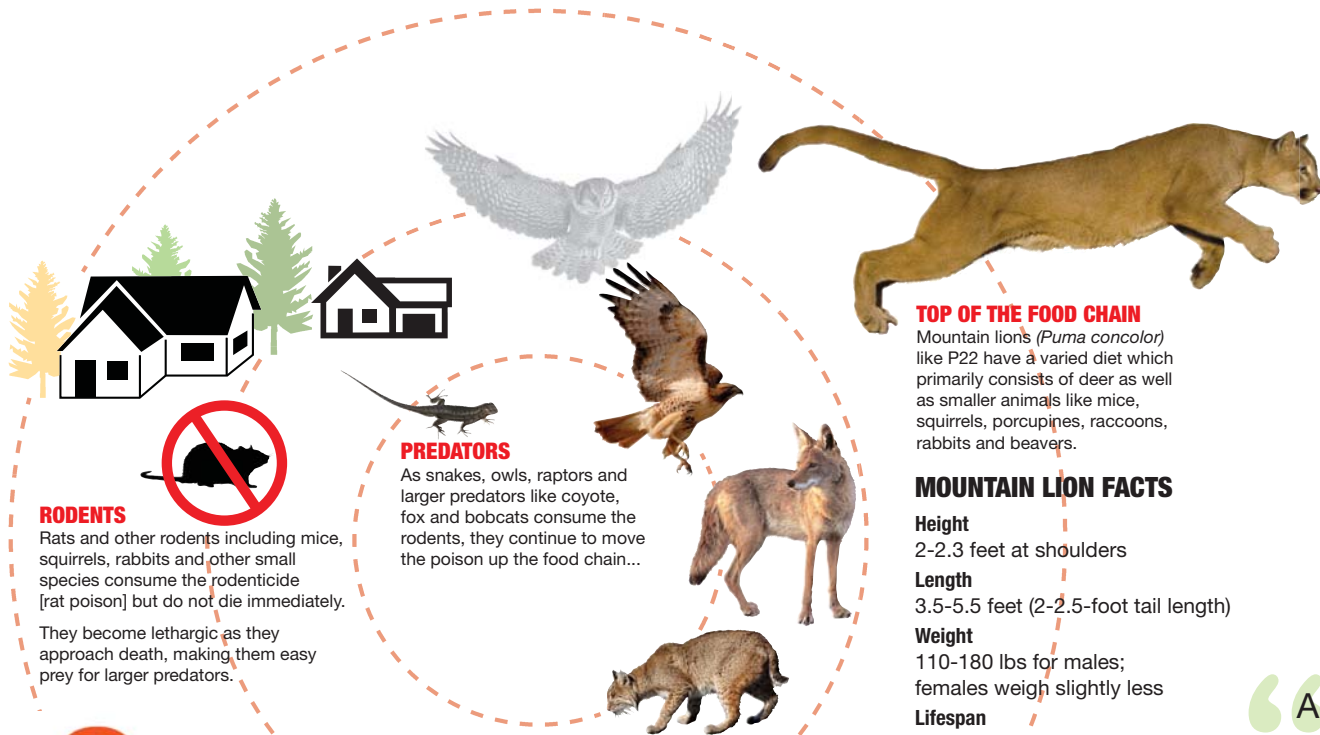


# HOW ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES MOVE UP THE FOOD CHAIN

Local residents may be unintentionally poisoning wildlife. National Park Service researchers have found a direct link between exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides, commonly known as “rat poisons,” and the deaths of wildlife in and around the Santa Monica Mountains which includes Griffith Park.

**This chart identifies how rodenticide (rat poison) works its way up the food chain.**



## RODENTS

Rats and other rodents including mice, squirrels, rabbits and other small species consume the rodenticide [rat poison] but do not die immediately.

They become lethargic as they approach death, making them easy prey for larger predators.

## PREDATORS

As snakes, owls, raptors and larger predators like coyote, fox and bobcats consume the rodents, they continue to move the poison up the food chain...

## TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN

Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) like P22 have a varied diet which primarily consists of deer as well as smaller animals like mice, squirrels, porcupines, raccoons, rabbits and beavers.

## MOUNTAIN LION FACTS

### Height

2-2.3 feet at shoulders

### Length

3.5-5.5 feet (2-2.5-foot tail length)

### Weight

110-180 lbs for males; females weigh slightly less

### Lifespan

In the wild, approximately 12 years

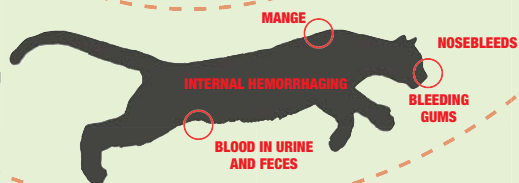
## COMMON RAT POISONS CONTAIN INGREDIENTS LIKE...

Bromadiolone, Diphacinone, Brodifacoum, Difenacoum (2nd generation rodenticides)



Rodenticides [rat poisons] interrupt an animal's ability to blood-clot which leads to uncontrolled bleeding and eventually, death.

Rodenticides also suppress the animal's immune system, making it susceptible to secondary health issues like mange.



**MANGE** is a microscopic mite that burrows into an animal's skin, causing extreme itchiness and lesions.

As a result, fluids and nutrients are lost through the skin leading to infection, starvation, hypothermia and ultimately, death.



photo: National Park Service

Griffith Park's P22 suffering from rodenticide poisoning

P22, the Griffith Park mountain lion, was recently captured and tested for anticoagulant exposure. Much to the surprise of many, two types of first generation anticoagulants (which are less toxic than the second-generation compounds, and to which the new California regulations do not apply) were detected in P22's blood.

-from *urban carnivores* / [www.urbancarnivores.com](http://www.urbancarnivores.com)

“According to park officials, over the past 20 years, more than 140 bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions have been evaluated as part of wildlife research, and close to 90 percent have tested positive for one or more anti-coagulant compounds.”



Thanks to Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Research L. E. K. Serieys / [www.urbancarnivores.com](http://www.urbancarnivores.com) Defenders of Wildlife / [www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org) National Park Service for original chart info. / [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) FRIENDS OF GRIFFITH PARK / [www.friendsofgriffithpark.org](http://www.friendsofgriffithpark.org)