MOVING 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 rodenticides work their way up the food chain.

In 2014, 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 anti-coagulants (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.

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% have tested positive for one or more anticoagulant compounds.