



September 14, 2023

Ron Gatehouse, CEO
Park7 Group

Dear Mr. Gatehouse:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, including thousands in Texas—in response to complaints of an ongoing rodent presence at your Park Place Waco property and reports that you have handed out glue traps to manage the situation. We urge you to immediately employ humane methods of rat control at this property in order to spare small mammals needless pain. Using lethal measures like glue traps is cruel and unnecessary, and it doesn't provide long-term solutions. Our wildlife expert would be happy to advise you regarding effective rodent control methods.

Rats enter buildings because careless human behavior lures them to look through our trash and belongings for something to eat. Rodent-proofing a building is the best way to deter them. Killing them doesn't solve the problem, as it only accelerates breeding and causes other rats to move into the newly available spaces. The money wasted on killing rats could instead be used to protect buildings humanely, manage trash collections, and inform residents about ways in which these intelligent, empathetic, and family-oriented animals can be discouraged. Funds used for cruel, lethal methods could productively be redirected toward supplying trash bins in strategic areas. Posters in public spaces can urge people to properly dispose of trash and remind them of [humane, proven, long-term solutions](#) to keep rodents in check. They can also highlight such actions as putting food and garbage in sturdy, well-sealed containers; keeping living spaces clean of crumbs and spills; and not feeding wildlife.

Effective rodent control entails making areas unattractive or inaccessible by the following means:

- Keep garbage cans tightly lidded (and use bungee cords on cans stored outdoors and locks on dumpsters).
- Install door sweeps to prevent rodents from entering, and spray areas where rodents chew with pepper-based repellents (sold in garden centers).
- Monitor rodent activity by using a flashlight to identify entry points and frequented areas. Look specifically for droppings, chewed areas, nests, and cached food.
- Evict rodents by placing ammonia-soaked rags in areas where there are indications they have been. Also effective are strobe lights in attics and crawl spaces.
- Trim vegetation so that it's away from buildings.
- Stack any wood kept on a property in tight piles well away from any buildings.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

- Once animals are gone, locate and seal holes and cracks that are larger than a quarter inch in width by using foam sealant, steel wool, hardware cloth, or metal flashing. Also seal cracks in the walls and floors and gaps around doors, windows, and plumbing.
- Provide sturdy, well-sealed containers that rodents can't chew through for all food waste and other garbage.
- After rodent-proofing the building, use [commercially available Havahart traps](#) or [make your own](#) reusable, humane live traps. Encourage building managers to check the traps hourly and release any captured animals within 100 yards of where they were caught.
- *Never* use glue traps or offer them to residents, as they cause panicked rodents to struggle once caught, tearing apart flesh and bone so that they die terrified and exhausted, often over the course of days, from shock, dehydration, asphyxiation, or blood loss. These traps are also a danger to human health. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cautions against their use, as they increase people's exposure to diseases. Furthermore, these traps aren't efficient or cost-effective, as the adhesive becomes inert after two weeks. Poisons and fumigants also inflict unnecessary pain and suffering and shouldn't be used.

We hope you will immediately move to rodent-proof Park Place Waco for the benefit of students and rodents alike. We also hope you will join the many companies—including Simon Property Group and Lincoln Property Company—that have banned the use of glue traps. Please let us know if we can provide any further information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Ingrid Newkirk
President