

Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.agriculture.poultry/2005–08/msg00142.html>

- *From:* "maxh" <maxh@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 09 Aug 2005 15:12:17 GMT
-

Hi folks,
thanks for all the useful information.
Using rat poison is not a good idea in my situation.
There are lots of rabbits, squirrels, snakes, chipmunks, birds and other
krittters all over the place. (I live near Palm Springs, CA – in the Mojave
desert). Any poison laid out might kill those animals too.
Snakes in the coop really freak me out!!!
The other day I went into the coop and
encountered a huge, long snake.
I believe it was a "rosy boa", I think that's what they are called.
Approx.5ft long.
Needless to say, I got out of the coop real fast, even though it was not a
poisonous snake.
But we do have a rattle snakes too, but I have not encountered one yet in
the coop, I'm glad to say.
My chickens are free range, but they all go voluntarily back into the coop
at dusk.
I got to put my thinking cap on to solve this problem somehow.

"OmManiPadmeOmelet" <Omelet@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:Omelet-144458.18442706082005@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> In article <ri7Je.6252\$P5.514@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx!nnrp1.uunet.ca>,
> "Don and Deanna Lecuyer" <lecuyer@xxxxxxxx> wrote:
>
>> My suggestion is to get warfarin (best rat poisin) and place the bags
>> underneath or arond the coop providing the birds can't reach it and
inside
>> the walls if you can fit it there.
>>
>> Another idea is to place the pellets on the roof depending on the height
of
>> the coop
>>
>> P.S. – Don't let ignorant people force you to defend your honest
questions,
>> some folks type faster than they can think or maybe don't even think at
all
>
>

Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!

- > The risk in using rat pellets is that the rats tend to carry bait off.
- > It could end up anywhere!
- >
- > Using poison bait around chickens is risky at best but it's the best
- > solution to a developing rat problem.
- >
- > Chicken feed attracts rodents so many people have or will eventually end
- > up with a problem. Here is how I've been handling it and I have yet to
- > end up with a poisoned chicken...
- >
- > I've built permanent bait stations out of cinder blocks. The rats can go
- > in there but the chickens cannot. Locate them outside of the henhouse
- > along a wall. Rats usually hug walls when they are running around.
- >
- > Inside of the bait station is a suit bird feeder. A small wire cage used
- > for feeding woodpeckers etc. Inside of that I place the Bar-type rat
- > bait. The rats have to eat the poison thru the bars of the bait cage
- > this way instead of running off with the bait or moving it out to where
- > the chickens can get it.
- >
- > Rats are pretty strong and can easily carry off an entire bait bar! I
- > use "tomcat" brand. I've even had them carry off eggs! I find the egg
- > out wherever with two little teethmarks in it from their sharp incisors.
- >
- > Stake the cage down! I've learned that some rats will try to drag the
- > bait cage off. ;-) These always have a small chain attached to them so
- > you can use that.
- >
- > The warfarin type rat baits take about 5 days to start taking effect.
- > The rats bleed to death and will usually die out in the open as they are
- > looking for water. Bleeding makes them thirsty. If they do die somewhere
- > where you can't find the body, it usually stinks for 2 to 3 days. :-P
- >
- > Good luck!
- >
- > Rodent control is an ongoing thing.
- > --
- > Om.
- >
- > "My mother never saw the irony in calling me a son-of-a-bitch." –Jack
- Nicholson

• *Follow-Ups:*

◆ **Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!**

◇ *From:* OmManiPadmeOmelet

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- **References:**

- ◆ **[Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!](#)**
 - ◇ From: maxh
- ◆ **[Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!](#)**
 - ◇ From: maxh
- ◆ **[Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!](#)**
 - ◇ From: Don and Deanna Lecuyer
- ◆ **[Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!](#)**
 - ◇ From: OmManiPadmeOmelet

- Prev by Date: **[Re: Trimming spurs](#)**
- Next by Date: **[Re: Attitudes in this group](#)**
- Previous by thread: **[Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!](#)**
- Next by thread: **[Re: Help – I got a rat in my chicken coop!](#)**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **[Date](#)**
 - ◆ **[Thread](#)**