

Dear Mayor and Council of Clarington

I am writing as a concerned citizen regarding the use and sale of all rodenticides in Clarington and the recommended actions in the staff report CSD 003-023.

It is widely recognized that rodenticides are dangerous to humans, companion animals, wildlife and the environment. They cause slow and horribly painful deaths and are ineffective and more expensive in the long term. All of these are well documented scientific facts. While many other jurisdictions recognize this and are acting to protect the environment and constituents, the proposed actions and language in the report is in direct contravention of the science and frankly quite concerning.

My ask is that Clarington immediately adopt the same resolution that the City of Pickering did on December 4th 2023 per staff report CS 35-23.

Or, at the very least, I would like to see report CSD 003-023 amended according to the recommendations below:

1. See Recommendation #2 “replacing rodenticides (interior and exterior) with rodent traps, catch tin traps, and snap exterior traps;” Trapping outdoors, where rodents are supposed to and do live, is unnecessary and inhumane. My ask is to not authorize any trapping outdoors and to add that the rodent management company on contract address all attractants and seal all entry ways into the Courtice Community Complex and ONLY trap indoors if there is a breach by rodents.
2. See Section 1.2 “the potential secondary impact it may have on domestic animals and other wildlife.” That statement is contrary to all current science and research about the effects of rodenticides. If you were to look at any safety data sheet such as [this one](#), you will see in section 2. Warning/Poison. As someone who worked for the Municipality of Clarington for many years in the fitness division, I know how important it is to the Municipality that all employees are kept safe, allowing poisons to be present is not in line with that. Also, please see Section 12 Ecological Information where it clearly states “Ecotoxicity Effects: This product is toxic to fish and wildlife” Please replace the statement quoted above with “the known secondary impacts that rodenticides have on domestic animals, the environment, humans and all wildlife.”
3. See Section 2.1 “Although rodenticides can be effective, they are felt to be dangerous, inhumane, and pose a threat to wildlife, pets, and children through primary and secondary poisoning.” In speaking to “rodenticides can be effective” this is not true and please remove this statement. Per a [recent survey of pest control providers](#) most respondents acknowledged that rodenticides are not an effective means of rodent management in the long term. What also needs to be addressed is “felt to be dangerous,”. Per the countless studies that myself and the Defend Them All Foundation has provided, along with all that we have not, rodenticides are known to be dangerous.

They are poisons after all and there are no safe poisons. I would then ask each of you individually if you would be comfortable with these poisons in and/or around your home. Please replace the quoted statement with “Rodenticides are not an effective long term means of rodent management as they are known to be dangerous, inhumane, and pose a threat to wildlife, pets, and children through primary and secondary poisoning.”

4. See Section 2.4 “SGARs can also pose a serious risk to people, pets, and wildlife through direct and secondary poisoning.” Please remove the words “can” and “also”. It is well known and documented that SGARs pose a serious risk to people, pets, and wildlife through direct and secondary poisoning.
5. See Section 4.1 “In conjunction with our pest control contractor, staff will arrange for the removal of all rodenticide bait traps in and around the facility. They will be replaced with rodent traps, catch tin traps, and snap exterior traps.” Please amend the report to remove the recommendation for exterior trapping as rodents are meant to live outdoors. It is inhumane and unnecessary to bait rodents to come closer to the building and then kill them. Please amend the report to direct the rodent management provider on contract to properly seal all entryways, remove attractants and only trap indoors if an infestation occurs.

If rodenticides were truly an effective and safe means of rodent management, pest control companies would not remain on contract for indefinite durations of time. Please for the sake of the safety of the constituents of Clarington, companion animals, wildlife and the environment during this current biodiversity crisis we are in, take a bold stance and prohibit rodenticides on all municipally owned properties immediately. When rodenticides are being called the “DDT of our time” it is past due for Clarington to act against these poisons.

Of course, I am more than happy to help move this initiative forward in any way and I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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