

# Accidental Poisoning – what to do if your pet eats rat and mouse bait?

Rentokil produce a range of products for the effective control of rats and mice in and around the home. These products are available through leading rural suppliers, major supermarkets and hardware stores.

One of the best known products to help kill rats and mice is Rentokil Bromakil. The active ingredient in Bromakil is called Bromadiolone.

### What is Bromadiolone?

Bromadiolone is an anti-coagulant rodenticide (a rodenticide is a chemical that kills rats and mice). It has been developed by Rentokil to overcome the problems of other rodenticides i.e. some of the other rodenticides don't work as effectively anymore, as rats and mice have built up a level of resistance to them.

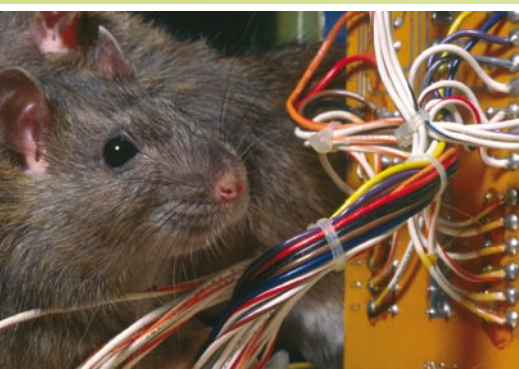
### How do anti-coagulants work?

Anti-coagulants kill rats and mice by reducing the ability of the rodent's blood to clot. The anti-coagulant used in the Bromakil range has the ability to kill following a single feed.



### Accidental poisoning – what to do if your pet eats rat and mouse bait?

Occasionally rat and mouse baits may be eaten by pets. If you think your pet may have eaten bait, contact your local vet as soon as possible, day or night, as early detection is very important. It will help if you can also bring the packet of the bait with you to the surgery, so your vet has an idea of the type of bait eaten. Your vet may then treat your pet with Vitamin K and other medications.



The signs of toxicity may take a couple of days to be evident. Look out for the following symptoms which relate to anaemia and blood loss. Look for blood in the animal's:

- faeces,
- in the saliva or
- appearing from the nose.

### What about secondary poisoning?

Secondary poisoning may occur when your pet eats a dead rodent with traces of bait in their blood.

Due to the low amounts of active ingredient required to kill rodents, secondary poisoning from eating a dead rodent by a domestic animal is not as common. For example, a 10kg dog would have to eat 60 dead mice or 4 dead rats a day for 7 days for secondary poisoning to occur. However, smaller animals tend to be affected more easily due to lower body weight. To be safe it is a good idea to get your pet to the vet as soon as possible for treatment.



### How to prevent poisoning

Help to reduce the risk of accidental poisoning of pets:

1. Store baits in areas only accessible to rodents e.g. roof cavity, between walls, and along known rat runs.
2. An easy, practical solution is to secure bait in a PVC pipe or under sheets of galvanised iron, away from pets, wildlife and children.
3. Store unused baits in their own container which itself is placed inside another sealed container out of reach of pets and children.
4. If you see dead rodents, please dispose of thoughtfully, as it may help prevent secondary poisoning (especially of smaller animals including birds).
5. Use bait stations – these can be secured away from pets and wildlife.

**Remember if you think your pet has eaten some rat and mouse bait, contact your local vet urgently.**

**Poisons Information Centre phone 131 126**

