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.

~from urban carnivores www.urbancarnivores.com



TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN

Mountain lions (Puma concolor) like P22 have a varied diet which primarily consists of deer as well as smaller animals like mice, squirrels, porcupines, raccoons, rabbits and beavers.

MOUNTAIN LION FACTS

Height

2-2.3 feet at shoulders

Length

3.5-5.5 feet (2-2.5-foot tail length)

Weight

110-180 lbs for males; females weigh slightly less

Lifespan

In the wild, approximately 12 years

photo: National Park Service

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.



Friends of Griffith Park
www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

Rodenticides [rat poisons] interrupt an animal's ability to blood-clot which leads to uncontrolled bleeding and eventually, death.

Rodenticides also suppress the animal's immune system, making it susceptible to secondary health issues like mange.



MANGE is a microscopic mite that burrows into an animal's skin, causing extreme itchiness and lesions.

As a result, fluids and nutrients are lost through the skin leading to infection, starvation, hypothermia and ultimately, death.

Thanks to: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Research, L. E. K. Serieys / www.urbancarnivores.com, Defenders of Wildlife / www.defenders.org National Park Service for original chart info. / www.nps.gov