

University Hills Rodent Management History

ICHA uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to controlling the University Hills rodent population while working to protect native wildlife and domestic pets against secondary chemical impacts. ICHA does not use anti-coagulant rodenticide products commonly found in household rat treatments. ICHA is collaborating with the HRB, Orange County Vector Control and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources to address concerns about environmental impact while reducing the rodent population.

ICHA Rodent Baiting Program

ICHA has maintained an active baiting program for many years. From the onset, "Best Practices" have been implemented and followed in our attempts to minimize rodents (rats, mice, gophers and voles) with particular focus on rats. ICHA has always utilized a state licensed and insured pest control contractor. Our efforts have included using locked and secured (weighted / anchored / glued in place) stations with limited access to the feeding / trapping chamber sized just large enough for a rat to enter. This restricts non-targeted animals and concentrates efforts specifically on rats and mice. The locations of the stations are uniform in distribution and distance from each other where common areas allow discrete and specific placement along identified rodent pathways. This action offers generally equal treatment for the residents of University Hills. Bait blocks are placed inside a locked clam-shell box enclosure. The bait is securely placed on metal pins within the box where rodents are free to nibble and consume unthreatened.

Rodenticides

ICHA currently uses the rodenticide [Terad-3](#) in stations serviced monthly. The active ingredient in Terad-3 is [cholecalciferol](#) (Vitamin D3). To be toxic, rodents must feed multiple times on the bait block. ICHA selected this product as research to date shows no secondary poisoning to birds or mammals. Research continues, but representatives from UC Integrated Pest Management Natural Resources Extension, Orange County Vector Control and UC Agricultural and Natural Resources have all identified this product as the best environmentally-specific rodenticide for use in our unique University Hills open space, residential community setting.

Please view "[Rats in Your Community,](#)" an informational webinar presented by The Hoot Group and the [OC Mosquito and Vector Control District](#). In the presentation, Laura Krueger, vector ecologist with the OC Mosquito and Vector Control District, said the District has not detected cholecalciferol in local raptors and owls, while second-generation anticoagulants are found in 80% of raptors and owls.

ICHA's commitment is to continue to use the lowest impact rodenticide possible until another affordable alternative can be implemented.