

P. Bevan - Baker  
28.11.2023  
encl



UNIVERSITY  
of Prince Edward  
ISLAND

October 27, 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

***Re: Position on the Use of Glue Traps for Pest Management***

The Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) has encountered several cases where wildlife species have been caught in glue traps used for pest management. Assessments of the potential impact on the welfare of animals that are caught in glue traps for several hours before they are released or killed have identified that there is the potential for severe suffering to occur (Baker et al., 2022; Mason and Littin, 2003). For rodents as well as non-target wildlife species, these potential welfare concerns include injury from tearing skin, bone fractures and the animal chewing through its own limbs in an attempt to escape. Exhaustion from struggling and suffocation in the glue can occur. The animal may not be able to thermoregulate effectively, and it will likely experience fear, pain, hunger, and thirst while it is caught in the trap. There are several alternative methods of pest management that, if operated appropriately, would be less likely to cause the animal to experience prolonged suffering compared to glue traps.

In agreement with this research, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)'s position statement on Pest Management includes glue traps as an example of an inhumane method. The position statement states:

"The CVMA strongly opposes the use of inhumane methods of pest control... The CVMA encourages the use of pest control products that minimize animal suffering. Methods are considered inhumane if they:

- cause a high level of pain or distress.
- require a prolonged time to be effective.
- result in significant negative health effects on individual animals that escape, or in non-target animals...

Several methods have been employed traditionally, however not all meet scientific criteria for humaneness e.g., strychnine and compound 1080 poisoning of large predators, denning2, rodenticides, glue traps..." (CVMA, 2022).



Atlantic Canada's College  
of Veterinary Medicine

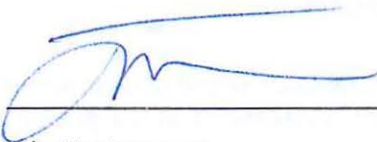
**OFFICE OF THE DEAN, ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE**

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Based on this information, we strongly encourage PEI to take steps to eliminate the use of these glue traps on the Island. As we have several faculty members with expertise on wildlife and animal welfare, we would be open to discussing this issue further.

Sincerely,



John VanLeeuwen  
Professor & Interim Dean  
Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI  
*On behalf of the AVC Dean's Council*



Kathryn Proudfoot  
Associate Professor & Director of the  
Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre  
Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI  
*On behalf of the SJDAWC*

/mgm

### References

Baker, SE, Ayers, M, Beausoleil, NJ, Belmain, SR, Berdoy, M, Buckle, AP, Cagienard, C, Cowan, D, Fearn-Daglish, J, Goddard, P and HDR Golledge. 2022. An assessment of animal welfare impacts in wild Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) management. *Animal Welfare*. 31:51-68  
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Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) (2022, March 5). *Pest Management (previously Pest Control)*. Position Statements. <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-and-outreach/position-statements/statements/pest-management/>

Mason, G & Littin, KE. (2003). The humaneness of rodent pest control. *Animal Welfare*. 12:1-37  
10.1017/S0962728600025355.

**PEI Veterinary Medical Association**

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October 31, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

The PEI Veterinary Medical Association (PEIVMA) is the professional regulatory organization governing the practice of veterinary medicine in the Province of Prince Edward Island under the authority of the Veterinary Profession Act.

Advocacy for the welfare and wellbeing of the animal population in PEI is also a primary interest of the Association. The Association participates in the development of various position statements produced by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association on topics of animal welfare, social issues, and professional advocacy.

Position statements developed by the CVMA reflect current knowledge regarding animal welfare. While they are not legislative, they do represent CVMA's ongoing commitment to the advancement of animal welfare.

In March of 2022 the CVMA issued a policy statement on pest management after extensive consultation with the profession nationally, including the PEIVMA.

The CVMA strongly opposes the use of inhumane methods of pest control. The CVMA encourages the use of pest control products that minimize animal suffering. Methods are considered inhumane if they: cause a high level of pain or distress, require a prolonged time to be effective, result in significant negative health effects on individual animals that escape, or in non-target animals.

The PEIVMA Council supports the 2022 CVMA position statement on pest management, and therefore agrees that glue traps present a definite risk of inhumane outcome for any animal, target or non-target, that comes into contact with a glue trap. Council therefore supports the efforts of the Atlantic Veterinary College and the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre of the Atlantic Veterinary College to bring an end to the use of glue traps for rodent control in PEI.

Dr. Gary A. Morgan, DVM  
Registrar



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November 20, 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Position on the Use of Glue Traps for Pest Management.

The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) consists of a cross-Canada network of partners and collaborators dedicated to wildlife health. At the core of the CWHC is a partnership linking Canada's five veterinary colleges and the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food Animal Health Centre.

The CWHC provides a Canada-wide perspective on wildlife health at the same time as helping to identify and assess emerging problems at a local level. A key role of the CWHC is to provide evidence and expertise to support policy and decision making on wildlife health in Canada.

On several occasions, CWHC- Atlantic, based at the Atlantic Veterinary College - Department of Pathology and Microbiology, has encountered deceased wildlife species that have been caught on glue traps, including the Endangered Little Brown Myotis or Little Brown Bat, protected under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

After extensive consultation nationally, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association issued a policy statement on pest management in March 2022. Pest control methods are considered inhumane if they cause a high level of pain or distress, require a prolonged time to be effective, and have a negative health effect on individual animals that escape or in non-target species (CVMA, 2022).

Based on this statement and after evaluating the significant injuries endured by wildlife being in contact with glue traps, including Species at Risk, the CWHC strongly supports the efforts of the Atlantic Veterinary College and the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the AVC to eliminate the use of glue traps for rodent control in PEI.

Sincerely,

Damien Joly  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative

Patrick Zimmer  
Chief Operating Officer

References:

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) (2022, March 5). Pest Management (previously Pest Control). Position Statements.  
<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/policy-and-outreach/position-statements/statements/pest-management/>

