



Sarasota Pest Control says ?Super Rats? Are Resistant to Rodenticide

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New hotspots of rats that are resistant to anticoagulant rodenticides have been identified by Sarasota Pest Control. A study was commissioned by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU). The study identifies for the first time the L120Q gene, responsible for the most severe form of resistance. This gene renders first generation anticoagulant rodenticides and two of the second generation groups ineffective. It is widespread across the country.

It also reports that rats without the genetic mutation are being killed off by poison, so the resistant species are taking their place, leaving a growing population of resistant pure-breds.

Another serious concern is that three different types of resistant rats are were found. Farmers, pest control technicians and gamekeepers are using products that are ineffective in places where rodents are resistant; and they are using unnecessary, resistance-breaking products where there is no resistance. More samples need to be taken to solve this problem.

All rodenticide users are obliged to follow the CRRU Code of Best Practice, which includes monitoring the

results of control treatments. Sarasota Pest Control says, "If monitoring suggests that rodents are surviving well-implemented control programs, this may indicate the presence of resistance." Those struggling to control resistant rodents can call on the services of a reputable professional pest control company.

The resistant rat population is expanding and there could be a significant risk to public health if their population is left unchecked in urban and rural environments. Sarasota Pest Control suggests, "It is most likely the spread of these resistant rats has been accelerated by the application of rodenticides, by amateurs such as home and business owners doing it themselves, or employing an unqualified individual to try to resolve the problem." To help tackle the issue, homeowners should not attempt to resolve the problem by self-treating rat infestations. Use of rodenticides are often more successful when done by a professional exterminator. Using a qualified technician who is able to purchase and apply relevant products that can tackle such issues of resistance.

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