



## UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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### Media Release

**From the  
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)**

**16<sup>th</sup> November, 2010  
For Immediate Release:**

### **Information leaflet on humane rodent control**

A Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) working group has produced a leaflet giving advice about humane rodent control, available for distribution by retail outlets at point of sale of control equipment and supplies and other organisations such as pest control services.

Rats and mice are trapped or killed for various reasons, including hygiene, public and animal health, protection of foods or crops, and sometimes to protect endangered species whose that may be threatened by introduced non-native rodents. "Rodents can suffer fear and pain, and because of the very large number of pest rodents killed, the control of rats and mice is a major worldwide animal welfare issue. It is important that we should use control methods as humanely as possible." says James Kirkwood, UFAW's Chief Executive and Scientific Director.

The UFAW working group, comprising scientists, veterinarians and representatives from the pest control industry has produced a leaflet giving advice to the general public on using control methods humanely. It is being made available to retailers for distribution at points of sale of control equipment such as traps and rodenticides, and to other organisations such as pest control companies providing services to the public. The leaflet complements an information page on the UFAW website ([www.ufaw.org.uk](http://www.ufaw.org.uk)) 'Guiding principles in the humane control of rats and mice'.

Further information and a sample leaflet are available from UFAW, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN. Telephone 01582 831818, email [ufaw@ufaw.org.uk](mailto:ufaw@ufaw.org.uk)

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PDF attached: Humane rodent control leaflet front

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### SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: James K Kirkwood BVSc PhD CBiol FIBiol MRCVS

Secretary: Donald C Davidson

Registered Charity No. 207996 (Registered in England) and Company Limited by Guarantee No. 579991



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### Note to Editors:

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an internationally recognised, independent scientific and educational animal welfare charity. It works to improve knowledge and understanding of animals' needs in order to achieve high standards of welfare for farm, companion, research, captive wild animals and those with which we interact in the wild.

UFAW improves animal welfare worldwide through its programme of awards, grants and scholarships; by educational initiatives, especially at university and college level; by providing information in books, videos, reports and in its scientific journal *Animal Welfare*; by providing expert advice to governments and others, including for legislation and 'best practice' guidelines and codes; and by working with animal keepers, scientists, vets, lawyers and all those who care about animals.

This work relies on the support of members, subscribers and donors.

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# Rodent control



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## as humanely as possible

It is sometimes necessary, for human health or other reasons, to control rats and mice. Whether choosing lethal or non-lethal means, aim to use these humanely – to minimise the risks of suffering.

### Proofing

The best cure is prevention. If there is no access to food, water, shelter or nesting sites, rodents will go elsewhere and will not be able to produce or maintain significant populations. Preventing access, especially to food and food storage areas, should be the first choice in the prevention and control of infestations.

### What is humane trapping or killing?

The humane ideal, whether lethal or non-lethal methods are used, is to avoid causing suffering (fear or pain).

You should use the most humane method that is effective in your situation. For more information on the humaneness of different methods, and how to kill humanely, see

**‘Guiding principles in the humane control of rats and mice’**

at [www.ufaw.org.uk/rodents.php](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/rodents.php).