



**S.O.P No 02**

**Humane use of Rodent Glue Boards**

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**Code of Best Practice**

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)  
provides guidelines for the Humane use of Rodent Glue Board.

**Humane Use of Rodent Glue Boards**

In order to protect public health within high-risk environments, the use of rodent glue boards remains an important last option when all other control methods have been considered ineffective.

Although glue boards are not designed to physically harm rodents, their use raises valid concerns and they should only be sold to or used by qualified & registered pest control operators who received adequate training and are fully competent in the effective and humane use of this technique. The following principles must be followed in order to minimise animal welfare concerns:

**1. Option of last resort**

All other options for rodent control must first be considered before glue boards are used. Detailed records must show why other control methods are either considered inappropriate or have failed. Where there is a rodent infestation in a high-risk or sensitive environment, it may be appropriate for glue boards to be placed strategically to ensure immediate control. This measure must only be used if other methods have been unsuccessful.

**2. Check boards frequently**

Where rodent glue boards are used, it is of utmost importance that these must be inspected at appropriate intervals. This should be within 12 hours of placing, or sooner, or at least as soon as is reasonably practicable, including weekends. If unavoidable events cause slight extensions to inspection intervals then the reasons should be recorded. It is of utmost importance that longer delays be avoided (see contingency plan below). Where possible and practical, inspection times must be organised to minimise the time rodents are likely to be on the board (e.g. if rodents are known to be active during certain periods, inspection times should be arranged with this in mind). If a caught animal displays signs of undue suffering or serious physical harm, the intervals between inspection times must be shortened. Records must be updated after all inspections.

**3. Check boards frequently**

A contingency plan must be in place so that in the event of an emergency a second competent person can be called upon to inspect the boards and deal with any captures or safely remove the boards as appropriate. Where it is known that the glue boards will not be inspected at appropriate intervals they must be taken up (even if only temporarily). Engage with the client that they understand what the contingency plan is when dealing with inspection times.

#### **4. Protect non-target species**

Boards must be placed in such a manner that they do not present a risk to non-target species. This is of utmost importance to minimize any risk toward non-target species and that the boards are monitored for such.

#### **5. Use the correct size board for the pest species**

The size of board must be appropriate for the target species. The glue must be placed in an appropriate container such as a bait station.

#### **6. Detailed records**

Detailed copies of records and location plans should be available on site at all times for all boards laid during any treatment and must be updated as necessary to ensure traceability. Copies ensure information is available should site records be lost or unavailable.

#### **7. Dispatch of trapped rodents humanely**

Rodents trapped on rodent boards must be dispatched quickly and humanely by qualified & registered pest control operators, who have received the appropriate training. Please refer to SAPCA S.O.P No 1, for the Standard Operating Procedures on "Disposal of Dead Rodents" Placing the glue board in a clear plastic bag and dealing the rodent a sharp blow to the head with a blunt instrument would be an appropriate mode of dispatch. Drowning is not an acceptable method of dispatch.

#### **8. Non-target animals**

In the event that a non-target animal is trapped, a suitable food grade oil or similar emollient should be applied to the animal for removal, or if not a protected species it may be killed humanely. Non-targets should only be released at their site of capture, not elsewhere, and only if they appear to be physically unharmed and their release is not prohibited by law.

#### **9. Remove boards at the end of treatment**

At the end of treatment all rodent boards must be accounted for, removed by the technician and the records endorsed accordingly.