

RODENT CONTROL IN VALENCIA REGION (SPAIN)

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Two main approaches towards rodent-free cities have emerged during the past 25 years; (1) a slow, steady improvement based upon special legislation, better baiting methods, permanent baiting points and general improvements in urban sanitation, and (2) a massive 'one-off' campaign by private or public agencies (WHO, 1987).

According to the above considerations we carried out a campaign to control *Rattus norvegicus* in the Valencia region during 1995.

Initially we carried out a preliminary survey to determine the relative densities of rodents and specific infested sites. Some environmental factors, such as structural defects and general sanitary conditions in the city, were noted.

During the campaign we used three types of anticoagulants; warfarin, chlorophacinone and coumatetralyl.

Warfarin was the first major anticoagulant to be developed in 1950 as a rodenticide, and it has subsequently had widespread use. In the case of Norway rats, early work showed that warfarin was the most effective of the anticoagulants available at that time. However, in many countries in recent years the use of warfarin has been declining, especially since the introduction of the newer, more potent anticoagulants. Chlorophacinone has been found to be more toxic than warfarin to Norway rats. Coumatetralyl has been widely used against all three commensal rodent species. It has been reported as well accepted by Norway rats and better than warfarin.

Simultaneous publicity and health education were offered to the public through television, radio and newspaper; other media such as exhibitions, films and posters were used to create public awareness of the problem and to gain public co-operation.

In this poster we summarise the results of the campaign, reporting the differences between the effects of the rodenticides used together with results of changes in overall rodent population size.