



RODENTICIDE - ANTICOAGULANT

ABOUT THE DISEASE

There are several different active ingredients in **rat/mouse bait (rodenticide)**, but outwardly all appear the same.

Anticoagulant rodenticides contain active ingredients that inhibit the body's natural recycle mechanisms for clotting proteins. Typical active ingredients include coumadin-based rodenticides such as bromadiolone, chlorophacinone, difethialone, and brodifacoum.

Within approximately two days of ingestion patients will suffer spontaneous hemorrhage which may include such symptoms:

- Lethargy
- Weakness
- Bloody vomit or diarrhea
- Epistaxis (bleeding from the nose)
 - Please see the [Epistaxis](#) document for additional information.
- Excessive bruising
- Respiratory distress, coughing
- Collapse, and even death

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

A veterinarian or animal poison control (ASPCA) will confirm active ingredients and help direct management.

Physical examination will help determine the severity of clinical symptoms.

Routine blood work and coagulation testing will help determine severity of toxicity.

Imaging, such as x-rays (radiographs) and ultrasound will help determine the presence of internal hemorrhage.

TREATMENT

As with most toxicities, if caught within the first two hours, vomiting can be induced to evacuate the stomach and then patients are administered activated charcoal to bind residual intoxicant in the digestive tract.

All patients are placed on vitamin K for upwards of a month, as it is the antidote for this type of **rodenticide**. However, it will take up to two days for the antidote to work well. Because of this, immediate intervention before symptoms develop is most ideal.

In patients exhibiting severe, spontaneous hemorrhage, the treatment of choice is frozen plasma or fresh frozen plasma. This will help patients regain the ability to clot their own blood. In cases where excessive blood loss has also occurred, red blood cell transfusions are also provided.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888.426.4435) for immediate triage of toxicities.
- Seek immediate care for interventional therapies.