

15 July 2005

Bob Nardelli, CEO
Home Depot
2455 Paces Ferry Rd
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Nardelli:

I am writing to ask that your company show itself to be a leader in its concern for human health and animal welfare by deciding to refrain from selling anticoagulant rodent poisons and glue boards. Instead, I urge you to sell a wide array of humane traps and to offer products that will help consumers to prevent rodent problems from happening in the first place. Should you fail to take these steps, I will be sure to let my family and friends know that Home Depot is a company that does not care about human, animal, or environmental health.

Anticoagulants work by interfering with blood clotting and blood-vessel repair, so that the exposed animal suffers painful internal bleeding before eventually dying of cardiac, respiratory, or kidney failure. These poisons can also harm pets and humans—and they do. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reported more than 50,000 instances of human poisoning by rodenticides between 2001 and 2003, and 103 of those cases involved serious injury or death.

Glue traps can be similarly dangerous to children and pets who either come too close to a struggling rodent or get stuck on the glue board itself. And the traps involve substantial suffering for the animal that gets caught: most rodents survive for several hours (sometimes even a full day) after walking onto the glue, during which time they endure trauma, dehydration, starvation, and sometimes self-mutilation.

Again, I hope that Home Depot shows its concern for human health and animal welfare by ending its sale of anticoagulant rat poisons and glue traps. As moral philosopher Jeremy Bentham noted over two centuries ago, “The question [determining whether animals deserve ethical consideration] is not ‘Can they *reason*?’ nor ‘Can they *talk*?’ but ‘Can they *suffer*?’”

Thank you very much. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian Tomasik