
Press release

Feeding the birds without rats, mice, etc.

St. Gallen, 30.12.2021. Especially in winter, when food is scarce, rats and mice can become a real problem. They look for shelter in cellars, attics, summer houses etc. where they can settle in and fall upon all the food they can find. The annoying rodents are attracted for various reasons, a very common one being bird food.

Feeding the birds is important, not just in winter. The living conditions for our birds have deteriorated over the years. There is a lack of vital food, especially when there is frost and snow. The additional feeding strengthens the population and compensates for the declining insect population and the increasingly restricted habitat. Therefore, animal welfare organisations and bird experts recommend year-round feeding.

Unfortunately, birds are not the only ones to be attracted by such an abundant supply. Mice and rats love bird food and understand how to use this fixed source of food for themselves.

Problem rodents endanger bird feeding

Both rats and mice are excellent at climbing, so it's not just the birdseed that falls on the ground that is problematic. Depending on the location and the type of attachment, the pests may get directly into the bird feeder and eat there. The presence of the rodents drives the birds away and prevents them from getting their food undisturbed. The birdseed is then contaminated with mouse and rat droppings and, in the worst case, diseases or parasites are transmitted from the rodents to the birds.

Prevention against mice and rats at the bird house

Some preventive measures can be taken against rodents in regard to the bird houses & feeders. This starts with the selection of the location, which should be freely visible and not protected by bushes or hedges. Next, it is advisable to give only the amount of feed that will get eaten and to remove the leftover feed from the floor every day, preferably in the evening. There are also bird feeders built in such a way as to prevent feed falling on the ground. The food or the house can be removed during the night. Birds are only active during the day, rodents mostly at night.

Ultrasound can help prevent mice and rats from moving in. The high-frequency sounds disturb the annoying rodents and have absolutely no effect on birds, as the latter cannot perceive ultrasonic sounds. The [ultrasonic animal repeller](#) and [ultrasonic animal repeller PRO](#) from SWISSINNO are perfect for this, as they were specifically developed for use outdoors. The powerful devices effectively drive away mice, rats and other rodents within a radius of approx. 150m². The robust construction and Swiss quality design is waterproof and the large solar panel charges the built-in batteries quickly. This ensures self-sufficient operation without an additional power source.

Note: Ultrasound is a gentle and animal-friendly preventative measure. Ultrasonic repellents are not a solution if there is already an infestation and rodents visit the feeding place regularly.

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Driving rodents away with odours is not recommended

Home remedies for driving away rats or mice, such as neem oil, chilli powder, chamomile, mint, or vinegar essence, which are sometimes suggested, are unfortunately ineffective, inconvenient to use and not economical. If they were effective, they would also drive away the birds, as they are also very sensitive to odours.

Animal-friendly and safe mousetraps and rat traps

If there is an existing rodent infestation, control measures should be taken urgently, because otherwise mice and rats will multiply quickly with the abundance of food available. Snap traps are an effective method of getting rid of those pesky rodents. Conventional traps usually have a pressure or kick trigger and are easily triggered by birds. These traps cannot be used without additional precautionary measures in the vicinity of the birds. The [rat trap PRO SuperCat](#), the [mousetrap PRO SuperCat](#) and the [NoSeeNoTouch mousetrap](#) are strong and selective. The patented "Easy Catch" trigger prevents false catches and the traps cannot be triggered by birds.

The PRO SuperCat traps by SWISSINNO only trigger when the pest is in the perfect position! The bait draws the pest in to the optimal placement where it activates the trigger up with its snout. This ensures a precise hit on the neck that kills instantaneously and minimises pain and suffering in the name of animal welfare.

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