

AFFIDAVIT

State of Texas
County of Frio

Nedim C. Buyukmihci, V.M.D., deposes and says:

1. I am a doctor of veterinary medicine and currently am a director of a sanctuary for nonhuman primates. I am recently retired from the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine where I was a Professor of Veterinary Medicine for 24 years. I have been practicing veterinary medicine since 1972, when I was so licensed in California. I am currently also licensed in Texas for the work I do at the primate sanctuary.
2. I have personally observed the effects of glue traps on trapped rodents or other animals. Based upon my observations and my 32 years of experience with, and knowledge of, animal physiology, pain, behavior and pathology, it is my professional opinion that any animal, including mice and rats, would experience terror, pain and suffering when caught with these devices. Furthermore, all mammals have a similar nervous system and mechanisms for detecting painful stimuli. The threshold for pain is essentially identical regardless of the species. The similarity in the anatomy and physiology, the survival benefits afforded by being able to respond to painful stimuli, and common sense indicate that the ability to *suffer* as a result of painful stimuli is similar across mammalian species lines. There is no credible evidence to the contrary.
3. I am co-founder of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights (AVAR), an international organization committed to balancing the needs of nonhuman animals with those of human animals. The AVAR is vigorously opposed to the use of the rodent glue traps because they are cruel and inhumane.
4. Glue traps generally only immobilize, but do not immediately kill the rodents or others who come into contact with them. The traps *might* cause a relatively quick death if the animal's mouth *and* nostrils contact the glue in a manner sufficient to prevent breathing. Even under this rare circumstance, the animal would suffocate to death, a death that cannot be considered painless. For the majority of animals who are only immobilized by the glue, they are subject to a death that is slow and painful. Death ultimately is caused by extremes in temperature, starvation, dehydration, exhaustion, predation, or self-mutilation. Death by these means involves extreme suffering. For these reasons, glue traps must be considered inherently inhumane and there is no justification for their use.
5. Some suggest the use of medicated pellets which trapped rodents might eat and be calmed. It is highly unlikely that this could be of value. Rodents who walk onto glue boards (traps) are quickly held immobile because their feet or their noses become stuck to the glue. The trauma of being caught most likely would inhibit an animal's interest in food for an undetermined period, allowing suffering to occur in the meantime. Even if a particular individual was interested in food, their inability to move would prevent them from consuming pellets or other food items.

6. There is also the issue of disposal of trapped animals. Most people are unlikely to take the time or have the inclination to quickly end the animal's life. Instead, the trapped animal and glue board are simply thrown in the trash bin where the animal will continue to suffer for an indeterminate period.

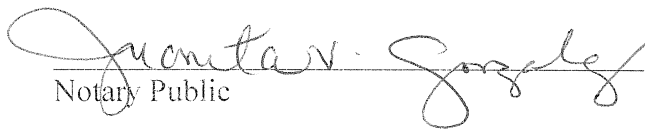
7. Whereas I recognize that it is sometimes desirable to control rodent populations, I believe that nonlethal or natural means should be used whenever possible. If lethal methods must be used, it is imperative that they quickly and as painlessly as possible kill the animal. Glue traps are the antithesis of this.



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Subscribed and sworn to me this

3 day of December, 2004



Notary Public

