

Human conflict with rodents and other mammals in the UK: Why we need fertility control

John Griffin, Director, Urban Wildlife, The Humane Society of the United States

CONTACT: John Griffin, jgriffin@humanesociety.org

The wildlife control industry in the U.S. has come a long way from its origins in recreational trappers helping overburdened wildlife agencies with wildlife control requests from the public in return for the pelts of the animals trapped. Now a modern day multibillion dollar industry, the methods of control that dominate have not come as far as the market has, and fall short of expectations in both humaneness and efficacy. Advancements in understanding conflicts with wildlife and in the improving methodology and application of existing tools and approaches to wildlife damage management increase both effectiveness and humaneness; reduce the number of animals killed; and resolve conflicts for longer periods of time. The implications of employing these tools and methods on a wider front in the context of “nuisance” wildlife control services represent an opportunity for significant progress. It is significant not only for the millions of animals a year that are caught up in “control” measures, but also for the public and the communities experiencing conflicts and looking for long-term resolution.

This presentation will review animal damage management in the context of the call to establish humane and effective standards by animal protection and welfare agencies around the world, the public, and increasingly by the scientific community. This presentation will also provide an overview of the state of humane wildlife control today and serve as an introduction to the related talks in the session.