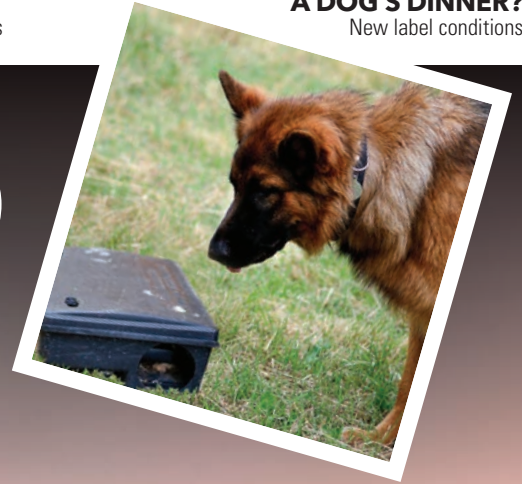


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PPC106



**WEIGHING IN
ON ANIMAL
WELFARE**

**THE INCREASING DILEMMA
FOR PROFESSIONAL PEST
MANAGEMENT**

FLIP ME OVER

BPCA

PestEx

The pest management show

**LOOKING FOR PESTEX?
PPC HAS GOT YOU COVERED!**

BPCA 27 Another tricky year, but plenty to celebrate.
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



PROFESSIONAL PEST CONTROLLER MARCH 2022
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BPCA Registered CPD points
Online CPD quiz = 1 point each

Remember to log anything else you've learned in your CPD diary for even more points. bpca.org.uk/add



Basis Prompt
Reading PPC mag = 2 points
Online CPD quiz = 1 point each
bpca.org.uk/cpd-quiz

The busiest start to a year – ever!

2022 is shaping up to be a massive year for professional pest management. Just look at the page count of this issue – there's so much to get through!

With changes to label conditions of your bait boxes (page 12) to new developments on glue boards in England and Scotland (page 10), there's plenty to catch up on in this issue.

Regular contributor Chis Cagienard takes a look at some pivotal new research into the humaneness of rodent control products (page 14), and Ian Andrew examines when a pest isn't a pest (page 19). These kinds of issues are likely to pop up A LOT this year – so take note.

Starting from PPC's back cover, you'll find the PestEx Showguide. Use it wisely to plan your days; you won't see everything and meet everyone, so prioritise your time wisely. When writing this, Covid-19 restrictions are easing again, so we're confident that PestEx will have an air of celebration that no pest professional would want to miss.

BPCA's annual report (page 27) summarises all the work we did together in 2021 and is an opportunity for members to scrutinise the Association. BPCA isn't just the Staff team or the Board – it's ALL of you. That's why we publish the report here, for the whole sector to read.

We've still managed to fit in plenty of technical articles, the latest news (page 4), legislation updates and member stories.

PPC interviewed long-time volunteer Rob Long from Sabre Kent (page 25) to discover why he has put so many years into BPCA's Board and Committees. Michael Coates from Combat Pest Control talks all things physical and mental health (page 24) as our newest regular contributor.

Whether it's bird management (page 22), best practice updates, thought-pieces or just 56 pages of valuable CPD – PPC has got you covered.

PPC is your magazine. Contact us today if you want to see something in our next issue.

See you at PestEx!

Scott + Dee

Scott and Dee
PPC editors
hello@bpca.org.uk

FLIP TO THE BACK COVER FOR OUR PESTEX'22 SHOW GUIDE - but don't forget to come back to read this stonking issue of PPC!



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A DOG'S DINNER **12**
Changes required by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to legally binding instructions on rodenticide product labels have significant implications for users in pest control, farming and gamekeeping.

ASK THE TECHNICAL TEAM **13**
Delusional parasitosis, wasp nest legals, increased roadkill, dispatching pests – we've got the answers!

PESTS VS PUBLIC HEALTH **14**
You may have read about the recent publication of Dr Sandra Baker's paper on the assessment of common rat management methods and related welfare impacts. We asked regular PPC contributor Chris Cagienard to review the paper, which discusses animal welfare and the protection of public health.

PUBLIC HEALTH VS PESTS **16**
The purpose of good pest management has always been to protect our health when certain animals come within problematic proximity to people. We asked Dr Alex Kew to look at the public health risks that arise from common pests, to better educate and protect our clients.

OPINION
WHEN IS A PEST NOT A PEST? **19**
Ian Andrew pontificates on the increasing dilemma facing professional pest management. Can we afford to have a conscience?

BACK TO BASICS
ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENTS **20**
"Don't roll the dice when it comes to protecting the planet; always do environmental risk assessments", says BPCA Head of Technical, Dee Ward-Thompson. In this article she takes it back to basics and explains what ERAs are and why it's important to carry them out.

Take a look at our handy table to see the status of the various public health and safety wildlife licences in the UK.

A SIX-PACK IN 75 DAYS? **24**
Michael Coates teamed up with BPCA and PPC to share his learning about looking after himself (and his community) from his time in the forces and pest control.

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FULL SHOW GUIDE
Careful now! We don't want you reading our bountiful PestEx show guide backwards, so flip this issue of PPC to the back cover – all will be clear!

LODI UK GEARS UP FOR PESTEX

Lodi UK's Shelly Knight tells us about her role and why PestEx is one of the top events in her pest control calendar.

With the exhibition nearly upon us now, I thought it'd be nice to write a short piece about my experience in pest control and a little about me: the London-based Business Development Manager from Lodi UK.



PestEx is one of my favourite events in pest control.

Not only because it has a fantastic location, just a few steps from my house up the Southern Line into London, but mainly because the sales area that I cover for my work is London, so I have the chance to meet my customers.

Since I began working after college, I've always had a customer-focused role, which I've enjoyed because people are my passion.

The thing I most like about this line of work is being able to provide customers with great service, products and the relationships built.

And, above all, I appreciate my engaged, loyal customer-base.

I've worked at Lodi UK for four years, and one of my favourite aspects of the role is that as a team we always strive to provide customers with next day delivery of innovative products such as Phobi CAPS, Digrain Bugster EC, Digrain C40WP and many more.

I believe that because pest controllers are key workers on the front line of public health, it's imperative that we do our best to support them.

Although the marketing team at Lodi is keeping a few things secret about what to expect on our stand at PestEx, I can say our motivation is about reconnecting with clients who we may not have seen over the pandemic, while educating our audience on new products.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at PestEx, 16-17 March at ExCeL, London – stand 81!

Register for PestEx

Get yourself a free place at the biggest pest management event in the UK.

pestex.org/register



FIFTH BIRTHDAY FOR LONDON NETWORK FOR PEST SOLUTIONS

London Network for Pest Solutions (LNPS) marked five years since being launched with a team get-together in East London.

Since February 2017, LNPS has more than doubled turnover, doubled staff numbers, won national and local awards and launched a new sanitisation service.

LNPS is a limited company wholly owned by the London Borough of Newham. It employs 17 staff and now has a turnover of £1.3 million with a mixture of local authority and private clients.

LNPS's formation changed the way council pest control services had been delivered for the past 40 years and allowed 'the council' to compete with the private sector for work.

Customers include residential properties, businesses, schools, charitable organisations and landlords in Newham and surrounding areas.

The London Borough of Newham was the first council in the country to form a private pest control company. The strategy has been a win-win for the council and customers.

LNPS Managing Director Paul Cooper said: "Five years is an important milestone for us which we marked with a get-together with all our staff.

"We are committed to investing profits back into the business to ensure the highest levels of training, equipment and vehicles which enable us to provide excellent services all day, every day."

The company puts customer service and quality of service before profits and has built a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. LNPS also aims to be as 'green' as possible. This is underpinned by the company's ISO 14001 accreditation.



NEW MEMBERS

Full servicing members

- Atlas Environmental Solutions, Warrington
- Kent Pest Management, Kent
- Little & Large Pest Control, Essex
- Pestbusters East Kent, Kent
- Pinpoint Environmental Services, Hays
- Ridtek Pest Control, Hampshire
- Three Counties Pest Control, Axminster
- TJ Hilton Pest Control, Fareham

Observer members:

- Camro A/S, Denmark
- Elis Pest Control, Denmark
- Pestkil, Cayman Islands
- Pro Serve, Qatar
- Saudi ASMA Environmental Solutions LLC, Saudi Arabia

Associate members

- Edwardian Hotels London, Middlesex

NOT ALL RAT BLOCKERS ARE EQUAL

Ask your Supplier!






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- Low quality
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- Little or no testing



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BPCA CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2022

Each year BPCA's Staff team chooses a charity for which they can support and raise funds.

During lockdown the BPCA Staff team steadily raised money for Prostate Cancer UK.

Though difficult at times due to the restrictions, the fundraising efforts began in March for #MarchTheMonth where the team walked 11,000 steps per day; each step to represent more than 11,000 men who die from prostate cancer every year.

Next up we had a Euros 2021 sweepstake, with the teams being divided up between our Staff team to help build our fundraising pot further.

Team members also took part in Run the Month October, 50 miles throughout the month any way they wanted – whether it was a mile at a time or a couple of cheeky marathons!

And throughout the year, during our online events like webinars and Digital Forums, we asked for small donations in exchange for the fantastic free CPD events we were putting on.

By the end of 2021 our total stood at a whopping £2,677!

We owe a huge thanks to everyone who donated; whether it was a big donation or small, every single penny will go towards an amazing cause.

So what's next?

After a quick poll on Teams, the BPCA Staff team chose the next charity they'd like to support for a full year.

Our fundraising efforts in 2022 will be for Dementia UK: a charity providing support for dementia sufferers and their families.

Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a range of conditions affecting the brain. There are over 200 subtypes of dementia, but the five most common are: Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, frontotemporal dementia and mixed dementia.

Dementia UK provides specialist dementia support for families through the Admiral Nurse service.

Throughout the year the Staff team will be doing various fundraising activities – whether virtually or in person – to raise as much money as possible.

We'd love you to get involved with your own fundraising activities; let us know what you have planned and how you get on.

And if you'd like to support our charity of the year with a small donation, you can do so by visiting bpc.org.uk/donate



NEW CERTIFIED BED BUG DETECTION DOGS WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Bed Bug Foundation (BBF) has launched a new website specifically designed to make it easy for pest controllers to locate independently audited companies offering bed bug detection dog services.

bbf-k9.org lists companies spread across Western Europe, providing full contact details for services in the UK, Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Sweden.

Each of these audited companies have handlers and dog teams that have passed independent certification with the BBF within the past 12 months. These detection services are available to be added to a servicing company's contract with an existing client.

What is the BBF?

The Bed Bug Foundation (BBF) is a not-for-profit company that supports the pest management industry and general public in the correct identification and treatment of bed bugs.

The BBF works with a network of dog training schools across Western Europe, acting as a certifying authority for bed bug detection dog teams.

bbf-k9.org

SAFE, SECURE SPRAYING TO TACKLE PEST CONTROL DUTIES

Sprayer specialist Laser Industrie has launched its comprehensive range of professional-grade compression units in the UK.

The sprayers are robust and versatile enough to apply aggressive liquids designed to combat viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens while conveniently handling specialist cleaning agents.

A brand within the Hozelock Exel portfolio, ISO 9001 certified Laser Industrie commands a 30-year track record in manufacturing speciality ranges for every sector.

Made in France, the hand-held sprayers provide the perfect partner for pest control operators working inside and out.

The range is colour coded to provide easy access to the most appropriate sprayer for the purpose. Sturdy key components such as cup seals, o-rings and woven Tricoflex hosing match content demands, standing up to punishing spray schedules and environments.

EPDM, Viton and Nitrile seal options ensure safe, secure containment and application of liquids as diverse as acids, solvents, detergents and bases.

The full range of parts and accessories for Laser Industrie's technically advanced, robust hand-held sprayers (some models including hygienic stainless steel lances) are readily available.

Service and support are available on all leading social media platforms, overseen by a national account manager covering the UK and Ireland.

laser-industrie.com/en

Twitter: @LaserIndustrie

Instagram: laser_industrie

ADVERTISING



LASER
INDUSTRIE

NEW FOR 2022: ADD YOUR BPCA REGISTERED CARD TO YOUR GOOGLE OR APPLE WALLET



This year, anyone on the BPCA Registered scheme can choose to have a digital flashcard version of their identification card available on their phone.

Your digital pass lets you:

- Quickly scan into events
 - Prove your identity to your customers
 - Show off your commitment to CPD
- ...all with a quick swipe of a screen.

This new feature is completely free and requires almost zero setup.

All we need is an individual email address for anyone on the scheme. More information on the flashcards will be available to participating members in the 2022 packs.

What about physical cards?

You'll still get your normal physical BPCA Registered identification cards, just as you always have.

However, this year we've invested in biodegradable cards to reduce plastic waste.

Ready to make the switch?

All BPCA members are welcome to join BPCA Registered – our individual recognition and CPD scheme.

BPCA Registered was designed by the pest control community, meaning the scheme is tailored to our industries specific needs.

Contact us today to arrange a demonstration with one of our team.

registered@bpca.org.uk

01332 225 114

bpca.org.uk/registered

UKAS ISO ACCREDITATION FOR CONTEGO RESPONSE

BPCA member Contego is pleased to announce it achieved UKAS ISO certification across three standards: quality (ISO 9001), health and safety (ISO 45001), and environmental management (ISO 14001).

Auditors visited Contego for a six-day long audit process, and commented on the excellent standard of work. They congratulated the team, certifying the company with zero non-conformances.

Paul Guthrie, Fleet and Compliance Manager, said: "We're proud of our reputation for putting our customers first, looking after our people, and having some impressive environmental credentials. That's why we are beyond delighted to announce that we are now UKAS ISO certified across three standards"

"The team has worked super hard to meet the standards and the audit process was quite arduous, but we knew we were in good shape."

He continued, "From day one, we wanted Contego to be a company that turned pest control on its head, and our commitment to continuous development through accreditation is a huge part of the plan."



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BBWEAR MAKES PESTEX DEBUT



Cornwall-based beekeeping clothing manufacturer, BBWear, is a family business founded in 2000 by Belinda and Michael Bright. It develops and produces a range of British made protective clothing for beekeepers.

Incorporating a critical level of research, production and quality control with the reigning ethos of locally produced British garments, BBWear has grown to be regarded as a market leader by customers and retailers alike.

As the interest in beekeeping and conservation continues to grow, BBWear has opened a shop selling clothing and beekeeping equipment, and now wants to introduce itself to the wider pest control market at PestEx.

James Bright, Sales Director at BBWear, commented: "We're really looking forward to taking our first major step into the pest control market at PestEx, having made clothing for the beekeeping market for 22 years.

"We hope to get the BBWear name out there as THE brand to wear when it comes to dealing with bees, wasps and hornets.

"The best protection on the market and made from our unique fabric, not one but two of our Ultra Suits worth £399.99 will be up for grabs at PestEx: one on our own stand and one in the BPCA competition - a fantastic chance to get your hands on one for free!"

The BBWear competition will have attendees guessing how many holes are in a large piece of ventilated BBWear fabric on display at their stand. Entrants will even be asked to try a suit on, so that BBWear will know what size they are if they win.

James continued, "We're looking forward to seeing you all there on 16 and 17 March, so come visit stand 49 and say hi!"

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT PELSIS GROUP



BPCA member Pelsis Group is pleased to announce the appointments of new Chief Executive Officer and Chief Commercial Officer.

Derek Whitworth has been confirmed as interim chief executive officer (CEO) of Pelsis Group. He was previously CEO of TMD Friction, a global automotive tier one supplier, from 2005 to 2012 and acted as Executive Chairman of automotive remanufacturer BBB Industries from 2014 to 2017.

Derek is currently Executive Chairman of silicone release liner manufacturer Loparex BV, and of laundry solutions and air vending services provider CSC Serviceworks Inc, amongst others.

The Board has also agreed the appointment of Jan-Derck van Karnebeek as Pelsis's interim Chief Commercial Officer (CCO). He is a 19-year veteran of The Heineken Company, culminating in six years as the global CCO.

Commenting on the appointments, Pelsis Chairman, Martin Schwab, said: "I'm very pleased to welcome Derek and Jan-Derck to Pelsis, and look forward to accelerating the development of the company as a major international player in the global pest control industry.

"The Board of Pelsis would like to thank Andrew Milner for his impressive work in building the company since he joined in 2019."



PELSIS ACQUIRES INSECT PEST CONTROL SYSTEMS MANUFACTURER

BPCA member Pelsis Group has acquired Brandenburg, a manufacturer of flying and biting insect control systems, for an undisclosed sum.

Brandenburg has become a wholly-owned subsidiary with all its 110 employees, customers and suppliers transferring to Pelsis.

The deal marks the second acquisition made by Pelsis in the last two months. The first was the purchase of Madrid-based professional pest control products businesses Sanitrade and distributor Vesta Distribuciones in December.

Brandenburg, which is headquartered near Dudley in the West Midlands, also has operations in North America based out of its facility in Saint Charles, Missouri. In addition, the company has a manufacturing plant in the Pune region of India.

Following the acquisition, Pelsis now has a turnover approaching €200m and employs more than 700 people across 18 sites located throughout Western Europe, the US and India.

Brandenburg founder and chief executive, Mathew Kaye, said: "Joining the Pelsis Group presents a great opportunity for deep collaboration and further investment in product innovation.

"Ultimately, it improves our ability to grow and develop our business to serve our customers even better. We are very excited about the future."

Pelsis Group chief executive, Derek Whitworth, commented: "We are very pleased to be bringing Brandenburg into the Pelsis Group family of brands, as the business shares similar goals, values and aspirations for the future."



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CLEANKILL SAYS GOODBYE TO LONGEST-SERVING PEST CONTROL TECHNICIAN

Industry stalwart and Cleankill Pest Control's longest-serving technician Phil Nye has retired after 20 years with the company.

Phil started his career with Rentokil in 1977 as a technician, and was a field biologist and a supervisor before joining Cleankill in 2001.

At Cleankill's staff conference Phil was presented with a specially commissioned trophy featuring two rats and a globe to represent his love of travelling. The inscription said "Presented to Phil Nye on the occasion of his retirement. The rats can now sleep easy."

At the conference Phil gave a talk about how things had changed since he started his career.

Cleankill Managing Director Paul Bates, said: "Phil was a real asset to the company and was excellent at training new staff who we wanted to mirror his attitude and knowledge.

"Phil eased gradually into retirement, reducing to four days at age 65 and then three days a week at 68. He originally covered London and in the last few years worked in Hampshire, Sussex and Surrey.

"We never had any customer complaints – only compliments – and he was definitely one of the best technicians in the industry. He will be missed."

When Phil joined the company in 2001 Cleankill employed seven staff. Now employing 50 staff, multi award-winning Cleankill has grown year on year and now has several thousand clients throughout London, Bristol, Buckinghamshire, the South East and across the UK.

Cleankill is the only pest control company in England to achieve and retain the Gold Investors in People accreditation.



PESTFIX TO SHOWCASE GROWING PRODUCT RANGE AT PESTEX

PestFix intends to promote its new and growing range of branded products at PestEx in London this March.

With SolarFix, GuanoFix Plus and RodentFix BB, PestFix aims to bring its products to all who work in the pest control industry at the event.

And what's more, all these products are up for grabs in the BPCA 'PROtect at PestEx' competition at the event.

Terry Burrows, Managing Director at PestFix, said: "We intend to have an Avix bird control laser on our stand that visitors can play with (safely) from a mobile phone. The user-friendly app makes this advanced technology easy to work with.

"PestFix has never been more excited to exhibit at PestEx this year. We have so much to show visiting pest controllers, from our new range of own brand

products to discussing training requirements and how the PestFix Academy can help the sector.

"We also have special guests from the makers of the Bird Alert and Avix laser systems offering hands-on playtime with the tech."

He continued, "We'll have a large number of our team attending including directors, marketing, operations, commercial managers so we can work directly with visiting pest controllers on ways to improve and support them as a supplier.

"Not to mention special event offers, competitions and freebies! Nothing means more to PestFix than building and strengthening relationships with our customers, and PestEx is the perfect place to do this. See you there!"



ENFIELD-BASED IPM ACQUIRED BY ORKIN

Orkin, a subsidiary pest control brand of US-based Rollins Inc, finalised the acquisition of Enfield-based Integrated Pest Management Ltd (IPM) before Christmas.

Matt Turek, division president of Orkin International stated: "The acquisition of IPM will help us to continue to expand our footprint within the UK. Both Orkin and IPM share a culture of exceptional customer service.

"We're pleased that Gareth and his team will remain with the company and we look forward to learning and sharing best practice."

Gareth Turner, managing director, founded Integrated Pest Management Ltd in 2000. Commenting on the sale of IPM, he said:

"Following discussions with the Safeguard/Orkin UK leadership teams I am very confident that we have found the right partner.

"IPM will always be something that I will cherish. It has been my life for the last 22 years and what we have achieved as a team is remarkable. Safeguard/Orkin will now take us to the next level."

HOCKLEY EAGERLY AWAITS RETURN OF PESTEX

Pest control product manufacturer Hockley International is inviting you to see its stand at PestEx this March.

UK-based Hockley has many years of experience in the manufacture, formulation, and packaging of insecticides and other products for the pest control market; products that treat a wide variety of insect pests and application environments.

Hockley will be at PestEx to continue the launch of Mostyn Duo CS, a broad-spectrum insecticide, new to the market.

George Allison, Environmental Health division manager, said: "We're really looking forward to the return of PestEx. This is our third time exhibiting at PestEx and it's the biggest show that we attend. With travel to the UK getting easier, it's the perfect time for the show's return.

"We enjoy chatting to our industry colleagues from all over the world and to pest controllers from here in the UK.

"We encourage you all to visit us on stand 31b. For us, there's no substitute for hearing about your experiences of using our products, and if you do stop by we have two new products on display.

"Both were launched in the latter half of 2021, and are already getting great feedback."

Visit stand 31b for more information about the products, along with brochures and videos and a small number of the traps which Hockley will be giving away.

George urged visitors to come say hi to the Hockley Team: "We'll be on hand for PCOs to come and chat to us, and we're happy to answer any questions. Look forward to seeing you all there!"



BASF RETURNS TO PESTEX TO SHOWCASE AWARD-WINNING RODENTICIDE

BPCA member BASF Pest Control Solutions is set to return to PestEx in March 2022 to exhibit its portfolio of innovative solutions to the pest control industry.

Having exhibited at the show for over 15 years, this year the BASF team will showcase its award-winning cholecalciferol rodenticide, Selontra®, which offers pest control businesses a unique solution to solve their rodent problems.

Since launching to the UK market in November 2020 as part of its Europe-wide roll out, Selontra® has been awarded the Pest Best Product award by the independent UK-based magazine, Pest.

The BASF team will be joined on the stand, by industry instructor Oliver Madge, who will be on hand to discuss any rodenticide queries or issues with attendees.

Visitors will also be able to take a short interactive, ten-minute Selontra® training course on the stand.

Visitors to the BASF stand will also be in with a chance of winning a host of prizes by trying their hand at the Whack A Rat game, with the fastest time winning a FitBit Watch and runner-up positions taking home a host of BASF merchandise.

Helen Hall, BASF pest control specialist, said: "We're really looking forward to returning to PestEx this year, having attended this prestigious pest exhibition for many years.

"This year, we're delighted to showcase Selontra® to the industry and hope visitors will join us on stands 64 and 28 for a game of Whack the Rat and to learn more about the product and training programmes available to pest controllers."

The stand will also showcase BASF's full range of products for pest control operators. pestcontrol.basf.co.uk



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Buckets of trouble

I recall from PPC magazine that you are keen to receive photos of both good and bad practice within the industry.

I guess you receive more pictures of bad practice than good! I can give you another example of bad practice, attached.

I visited a contracted premises today, to be told the neighbouring premises had called the local council due to a rat issue. The council attended and were reported to have applied rodenticide to the fresh water drains 'by the bucket load'.

Please see the attached picture of rodenticide waiting to be washed into the water course with the next rainfall.

In the light of current industry news, (Pest Control News, issue 128,

page 26) this presents a problem for contamination of fish. This then presents a contamination issue for the European otter *Lutra lutra* and the kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.

Kind regards, **Orlando Jackson, Pegasus Pest Control**



SYNTHETIC SEX PHEROMONE FOOLS VORACIOUS ASH BEETLE

Tricking a beetle that is devastating ash trees in many parts of the world into thinking there is love in the air could be hugely beneficial to the forestry industry.

A chemistry student at the University of Chester has been working with industry leader International



Pheromone Systems (IPS) to meet the challenge of producing a 'matchmaking' synthetic pheromone, for monitoring and managing an insect responsible for the global destruction of millions of trees.

A serious economic pest, the Emerald Ash Borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, is devastating ash trees in Eastern Europe, Georgia, North America, Canada and China and could spread further as a result of trade in timber goods.

Lures that slowly emit insect pheromones are used in traps to monitor and, in some cases, control specific pests.

Some pheromones are easier to source or make than others. The pheromone for the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle however is very difficult to source which makes it expensive to use in traps.

Field trials have been conducted in Québec, Canada to test a new synthetic pheromone against the main commercial lure. The tests showed the synthetic pheromone worked just as well as the commercial one.

Technical Manager for International Pheromone Systems Dr Sam Jones explains: "Insects that are usually controlled by natural predators in their native regions are able to proliferate rapidly when reaching new regions with suitable conditions.

"Continued growth in international trade introduces pests to new regions and global warming often increases the range in which the pest can effectively survive and populate. This is the case with the Emerald Ash Borer. An effective pheromone lure for monitoring and management of this pest is therefore of utmost importance."

The project was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020 programme as part of the Eco-Innovation (Cheshire and Warrington) Programme.

Dr Ziedan added: "We are now interested to hear from potential customers and will start manufacturing when we know there is a clear demand. The larger the volume we produce the cheaper it will be for customers."

Want to learn more?

If you have any questions about the project, get in touch with IPS.

internationalpheromones.com/contact-us/

Reflections on ratting in America

I just wanted to share with your readers a story about some of the amazing experiences you can have as a pest controller if you grab opportunities when they arise.

About six years ago I watched a programme about volunteers and their dogs, who go around New York City and Washington DC controlling rats. I was intrigued, so after watching I searched online for the people involved.

For about 12 months I spoke with Scott Mullaney, Unique Pest Management, about his outings and his business. I told him I was heading over to Washington DC to see my family and expressed my interest in visiting him to get a first-hand look at how they go about controlling rats within a city setting. They were more than happy for me to go out on a night's ratting with them.

Having only ever done it in a farm and agriculture setting, it was brilliant to watch the pairing of man and dog in a more complex environment in the city.

So into the dark and dirty service alleyways of Washington DC we went! My job was to be a blocker and use a hockey stick, redirecting any rats that came towards me and moving them towards the dogs. It was just the most surreal and fun night, and we managed to get a lot of rats.

Quite frankly, I've never seen so many rats in my life!

Regards, **Stuart Blair, Graham Pest Control**

Your comments

If you see anything you read here that you'd like to comment on, do it!

hello@bpca.org.uk



PESTS IN POLITICS: WINTER 2021/2022

With pest management under the spotlight, particularly regarding glue boards, BPCA has spent more time than ever monitoring what's happening in the UK parliament and the devolved administrations. PPC helps keep you firmly in the loop.

▶ Southwark pest control budget

Councillor Victor Chamberlain tweeted on 26 January, "proposed increases to pest control fees by up to 130% in Southwark's draft 2022-23 budget are unfair to people on lower incomes. Liberal Democrat members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee criticised the council on this yesterday".

▶ Scottish Gov invests £550,000 in pest solution

AgriLand reported on 30 November that the Scottish government invested £550K in a small device that counts weevils, and notifies foresters when the weevil population gets to critical levels, as a solution to pest management in forestry across the UK. The device was designed by the engineering company and BPCA Member, Spotta.

▶ Neonicotinoids and the impact on bees

A debate took place in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 2 February at 9.30am on Government approval for the use of neonicotinoids and the impact on bees. The debate was opened by Luke Pollard MP.

▶ Animal Sentience Bill

On 8 December 2021, the Countryside Alliance described the Animal Sentience Bill as a "terrible piece of legislation" and a "bureaucratic nightmare".

▶ Pests in Scottish council houses

Scottish Liberal Democrats tweeted on 10 January 2022: "RT @scotlibdems: Figures show there were 16,203 pest control incidents in 2020 alone. @willie_rennie said this huge number of council house tenants shouldn't have to put up with this. Council budgets have faced the squeeze and had a dramatic impact on their ability to deal with these issues".

▶ Glue boards - Scotland

On 12 January 2022, Siobhian Brown asked the Scottish Government what it is doing to take forward the recommendations in the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission's report on the use of rodent glue traps in Scotland, including the recommendation to ban such traps.

The Minister for Environment and Land Reform (Màiri McAllan) responded: "We have carefully considered the Scottish animal welfare

commission's findings, alongside all other relevant evidence, and I am pleased to announce today that we intend to end the cruel practice of setting glue traps. The commission's report is clear that the use of glue traps relates to significant animal welfare issues, not only for rodents but for non-target species such as wild birds. Therefore, we will introduce legislation to ban glue traps in this parliamentary term.

Siobhian Brown, replied: "I welcome that news. Glue traps are one of the cruellest methods of rodent control. As well as banning the use of glue traps, will we also ban their sale?"

Màiri McAllan, said: "Our intention is to ban both the sale and the use of glue traps. However, implications arise from the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020, which can undermine decisions that this Parliament makes, including in wholly devolved climate and environmental policy areas. We intend to work through those issues to achieve a ban".

On 20 January 2022, the Scottish government announced plans to implement a total ban of rodent glue boards. BPCA will lobby for an exemption for pest professionals, similar to the Glue Traps (Offences) Bill in Westminster (probably through licensing).

On 19 January 2022, a committee of MPs gathered to scrutinise the Glue Traps (Offences) Bill line-by-line. The Bill passed the committee stage without amendment. BPCA engaged with every MP on the committee with our concerns regarding sticky insect monitors, the definition of a pest controller and licensing arrangement. All these concerns were addressed by the committee of MPs.

▶ Glue boards - England

On 4 February 2022, the Glue Traps (Offences) Bill went through its report stage in the Commons. Mark Tami MP tabled a few amendments, which were subsequently withdrawn.

His amendments were around some of the language used and the potential for loopholes in the Bill.

Jane Stevenson, the MP behind the private members Bill said in her response:

"The other points the right hon. Gentleman raises in the amendments give me the chance again to plead with the Minister to make the licensing enforcement regime watertight. I share the concern that people given licences should have to prove a very high level of competence in the ability to dispatch quickly and humanely any animal stuck on a glue trap. I thank the right hon. Gentleman again for his contributions".

Mark Tami MP also raised his concerns about the availability of these traps on eBay and in other places. He wants to ensure they are not accessible even via the internet.

Victoria Prentis, Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food, noted that Defra will work with the industry on licensing. BPCA has written to her to reaffirm we're ready to engage with the process and help make the scheme workable.

The Bill is now progressing through the House of Lords. The first reading took place on 7 February. This stage is a formality that signals the start of the Bill's journey through the Lords.

Second reading is yet to be scheduled.

▶ From the EU

The EU has made a non-inclusion decision for active substance d-allethrin, which is used in some insecticides. Although we're not sure on the timeline, the UK is likely to follow suit considering the lack of any divergence in chemical regulation yet post-Brexit.

Dutch authorities have raised concerns about rodents pulling rodenticide out of secure bait stations and have requested data from the industry.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has just closed its consultation on alternatives to chemical rodent control. In short, the agency is looking to find evidence that non-chemical alternatives are sufficiently effective enough to mean that they no longer need to reauthorise rodenticides. BPCA has contributed to the consultation on behalf of members.

▶ Direct engagement

BPCA Executive Board member and Managing Director of Elite Pest Management in Gainsborough, Mick Kilburn met with his local MP, Sir Edward Leigh to discuss his personal concerns about pest professionals losing access to their toolkit.



Remember, if you want to talk to your MP, BPCA can support the conversation.

hello@bpc.org.uk

PESTS IN THE PRESS: OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

WINTER SHIVERS SHAKE UP PRESS INTEREST IN ALL THINGS PEST

As the weather turned colder, press attention invariably shifted to the critters – cockroaches, fleas and the like – that decided to move into homes and businesses for the winter.

Regional newspapers across the country covered stories from BPCA on a range of insect pests in the last quarter of the year, helping push out key messages about pest awareness and broadening understanding of the value of professional pest management.

'Bloodthirsty' squirrel attacks 18 people in small Welsh village in two-day Christmas rampage
Evening Standard

BPCA continued to hit the headlines nationally, with mentions in the Daily Express and World News, amongst others. There was plenty of coverage for 'Six signs you may have fleas in your home' followed later in November with 'False black widow sightings on the rise', 'Beware the heat-loving pharaoh ant' and 'Top five tips to stop rats and mice this winter' featured in December.

BPCA's focus on sector-specific titles also proved successful through the latter part of the year, with

coverage in titles across the food chain from farmers and growers, to processors and producers.

In the autumn, press releases issued to the regional and national press focused on raising awareness around fleas, zoonosis in rats and mice, false widow spiders, cockroaches, pharaoh ants and red spider mites with an article on woodlice finishing off our planned PR for the year.

While false widow spiders was a hot topic in The Sun, the BPCA's press release about the 'six signs of fleas' also gathered plenty of coverage.

However, reporters at the Daily Mirror and the Daily Star must have been getting in the mood for Halloween; both reported on 'vampire fleas' in their headlines.

And other journalists enjoyed some alliteration in their headlines, with both 'pesky pests' and 'pesky pigeons' in December and a savage squirrel who claimed the final headlines of the year after 'terrorising' 18 people in Wales.

As well as targeting the regional and national press, some of our general awareness articles were adapted to specific markets, so pharaoh ants had a version for hospitals and bakeries, while cockroaches were tailored to the hospitality sector.

TOP 3 HEADLINES

VAMPIRE FLEA HELL FOR BRITS
Daily Star

PREPARE FOR BOOM TOWN RATS
British Farmer & Grower (South East)

'BLOODTHIRSTY' SQUIRREL ATTACKS 18 PEOPLE IN A SMALL WELSH VILLAGE IN A TWO-DAY CHRISTMAS RAMPAGE
Evening Standard

ARTICLES TO-DATE **476**

CIRCULATION **926,716,391**

This approach helps underpin the value of professional pest management in different sectors, and resulted in requests for in-depth articles from sector-specific titles including:

- Country Smallholding
- Facilitate Magazine
- Tomorrow's Cleaning.

Read all about it!

Spot something in the press? Idea for a press release? Tell us.

hello@bpca.org.uk



A New Twist on Insect Traps

- Pre-filled
- Easy to use
- Modern design
- No contact with the insects
- Clean
- Non toxic
- Poison-free
- Natural ingredients
- 80% plastic reduction

Forest Wasp & Fly Trap

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British Pest Control Association
OBSERVER

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A DOG'S DINNER?

NEW LABEL CONDITIONS ON 'ROBUSTNESS' OF RODENTICIDE BAIT BOXES



"The guidance is a bit vague, which means that manufacturers and pest professionals can use their professional judgment."

Changes required by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to legally binding instructions on rodenticide product labels have significant implications for users in pest control, farming and gamekeeping.

Updated text will appear on labels from January, according to the chairman of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU), Dr Alan Buckle.

HSE requires that tamper-resistant bait stations must now be:

- Strong enough to prevent entry or destruction by dogs
- Strong enough to prevent entry or destruction by children under six years of age using hands, feet or objects reasonably expected to be available in the use area (eg household objects, toys etc)
- Lockable or sealable so that children and dogs cannot gain access through the opening or mechanisms used to fill the bait compartments
- And for use 'outdoors around buildings': resistant to destruction or weakening from exposure to typical non-catastrophic weather (eg direct sunlight, extremes of temperature and humidity, rain, snow etc).

How do you tell if your bait box is tough enough?

HSE has not specified a specific testing regime, which means it'll be largely down to your own risk assessment to decide if a box is tough enough to meet the criteria.

The simplest way to do your due diligence is to ask your supplier if your existing bait boxes meet the new criteria.

Is this the end of plastic bait boxes?

No. HSE had not stipulated what the box should be made of. It just needs to be tamper-resistant and fit for its purpose.

What about open trays?

No. Open trays that are, for example, secured in wall cavities or a place where there is no risk of non-target access, are still appropriate in certain situations.

Trained professional pest controllers continue to have the option to use rodenticide in 'protected bait points'. It's only when you choose a bait station that you're required to meet the new criteria.

Couldn't a big enough dog break almost any box?

Well, yes.

The guidance is a bit vague, which means that manufacturers and pest professionals can use their professional judgment. If you and your manufacturer believe that your tamper-resistant bait station is fit for purpose, then you're complying with the legislation.



Got any questions?

If in doubt, the best move you can make is to consult either the supplier or bait station manufacturer for assurances that your boxes meet the new criteria.



If you're a BPCA member and you have any concerns or queries, get in touch with our technical team.

technical@bpc.org.uk



BPCA EMAIL technical@bpca.org.uk

INBOX

SENT

ARCHIVE

BIN

SPAM

ASK THE TECHNICAL TEAM

Subject: Delusional parasitosis
How do I spot delusional parasitosis (DP) and how would I handle it?

DP can be difficult to spot but recognising the symptoms is vital so that you can proceed sensitively. Most often, people with DP will describe the insects as being on their body, rather than in the house.

I've seen two cases: one in which the person believed they had insects under their skin and could see them moving around, and another where the person could 'see' microscopic insects flying into their eyes and crawling into their body.

The key thing to remember when you suspect DP is be thorough with your monitoring; using monitoring traps all over the property could actually help the individual to understand that there's nothing to be concerned about.

Once you've monitored and can provide evidence that there isn't any pest activity, try to explain this to the customer. If they're still adamant, which they often are, it may be best to sensitively encourage them to speak to their GP. If possible, you could also try to speak with their family or carer; explain the situation to them, as they may be able to help.

Other than that, there is nothing else you can do. We aren't medical professionals and we need to know our limits.

And remember, if you don't find any insects then do not carry out any treatment. If you were to carry out a treatment not only would this be contrary to legislation, you may also reinforce the delusion and make it worse for the person.

Subject: Increase in roadkill
Why are there so many dead grey squirrels on the roads at the moment? Are they ill?

Some people have noticed an increase in roadkill, particularly grey squirrels. Some ecologists have suggested it might be because there is a larger adult breeding population this year.

Fewer squirrels, as well as many other wild animals, were killed by traffic in the spring and last year because of the reduced traffic in lockdowns, therefore the population numbers may have increased.

This is all speculative but some interesting food for thought! Readers should feel free to get in touch and let us know if they have any more information on the subject.

Subject: Legal responsibilities with wasp nests
Is there a legal requirement for homeowners to deal with wasps nests on their property, if the wasps are affecting people passing by (such as a hedgerow backing onto a path)?

It's not necessarily a legal requirement for the homeowner to treat a wasp nest on their property.

However, if a passer-by was to be stung by a wasp in a nest that a homeowner was aware of, and that injured person suffered a serious reaction, then it may be possible that a personal injury claim or civil suit could be filed.

The most at-risk groups are children, elderly people, those with allergies and pets - all of whom can be particularly sensitive to wasp stings. An assessment of location and risk associated with the wasp nest would be beneficial, so that a decision can be made regarding its removal.

Subject: Dispatching pests in live capture traps
How do you get over the feeling of dispatching a live captured rat or mouse?

To help you deal with that feeling, it's important to understand why they need to be controlled.

We manage rat and mouse populations in order to prevent serious diseases from being spread to people. Leptospirosis, hantavirus, and salmonella are just some of the diseases that can be fatal to even healthy people. We provide a very important public health service.

In my experience, a technician's anxiety in dealing with live rodents in traps can be resolved with training and understanding the processes for this type of treatment.

Shadowing other technicians, attending training courses or even talking with other experienced pest controllers is a great way to gather information and support on dispatching rodents correctly, in line with animal welfare legislation.



Are you a BPCA member with a technical question? Get in touch...

technical@bpca.org.uk
 01332 294 288
twitter.com/britpestcontrol

SPEED VIEW

Delusional parasitosis is a tricky subject and should be handled sensitively

Assess the location and risk posed by a wasp nest to decide if it should be removed

Pest controllers carry out an important public health service - it's not always glamorous or pleasant but somebody has to do it

Lockdowns may have caused larger squirrel populations

PESTS VS PUBLIC HEALTH

PAPER REVIEW: AN ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE IMPACTS IN WILD NORWAY RAT (*RATTUS NORVEGICUS*) MANAGEMENT



You may have read about the recent publication of Dr Sandra Baker's paper on the assessment of common rat management methods and related welfare impacts. Regular PPC contributor Chris Cagienard, Managing Director of BPCA member Pest Solutions, reviews the paper.



MORE AT PESTEX'22

"Animal welfare impacts in Norway rat management"

17 March at 11:30 in the Technical Theatre

SPEED VIEW

Pest professionals need to engage in ongoing academic research to fight the corner for public health

Six common pest control methods were graded on their welfare impact on a scale of less to more suffering and lower to higher impact

Anticoagulants/cholecalciferol/cellulose baiting scored the worst on welfare according to the study

The study is not perfect and there's a need for more research

The question we need to ask is, "how can we have the best welfare impact possible"?



An online CPD quiz based on this feature is now available on the BPCA website. BPCA affiliates can take a CPD quiz at any time bpca.org.uk/cpd-quiz or sign up at bpca.org.uk/affiliate

Pest control needs a seat at the table – professionals working on the frontline of pest control have been an absent voice in ongoing discussions and research that have a significant impact on our toolkit, and the legislation we all have to obey.

We are grateful for people like Dr Alan Buckle, who are dedicated to standing in the gap, protecting our toolkit and our ability to protect public health. But this is a gap that we, the industry professionals, need to fill. We need to engage in the ongoing academic research that impacts us all.

As part of Dr Baker's research presented in this paper, we were able to have a few professional pest controllers included in the stakeholder group. Myself and fellow BPCA members, Dr Mike Ayers and Jane Fearn-Daglish, participated in the research work as co-authors in the published paper.

Methods assessed and outcomes of the study

The following common control methods were assessed for their welfare impacts as part of the study:

- Snap traps
- Cage traps and concussive killing
- Glue traps and concussive killing
- Anticoagulant poisoning
- Cholecalciferol poisoning
- Cellulose ingestion (not used in the UK).

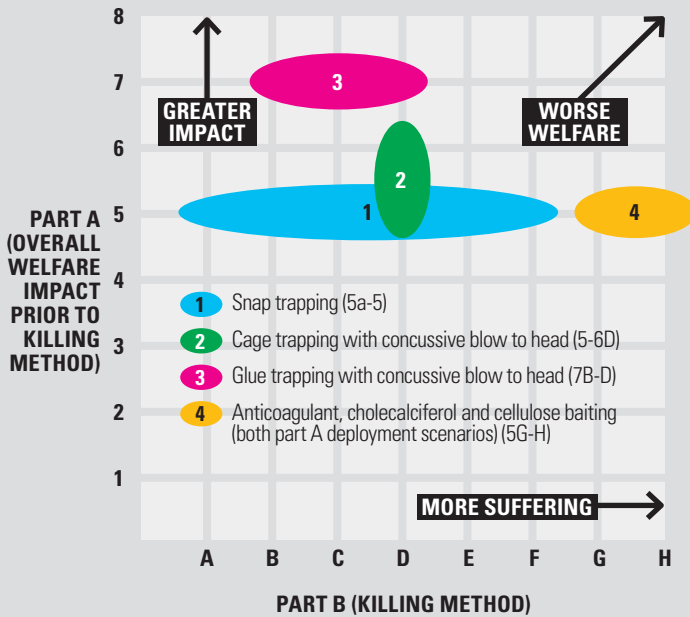
Each method was assessed according to the model laid out on the paper. Each method was graded on its welfare impact on a scale of less to more suffering and lower to higher impact. The centre line indicates a grade of better to worse welfare outcomes (see chart opposite).

In summary, the study reported that snap trapping scored the best on welfare, followed by cage trapping with a concussive blow to the head. Glue boards (with a concussive blow to the head) and anticoagulants/cholecalciferol/cellulose baiting scored the worst on welfare according to the model used in the study.

Study limits

The study is not perfect, but it's instrumental in framing the welfare impacts of control methods we deploy.

It's easy to think that we should be allowed to carry on the excellent work we do in protecting public health without the 'assaults' on our toolkit. This does sound reasonable, but it's not realistic. Instead, we need to take responsibility for defending our methods and toolkit with facts and evidence.



“With the term ‘pest’ being challenged by some well-intentioned people, we must remember that we define a pest out of necessity and not wanton disregard for the animal or species in question.”



Download the paper from ingentaconnect.com/contentone/ufaw/aw/2022/00000031/00000001/art00005

I find it hard not to conclude that anticoagulants got a raw deal as part of this research due to how the assessment model worked. I remind the reader that the results of this study were obtained as part of a defined assessment model. Therefore, they need to be understood as not a definitive conclusion but rather a helpful starting point for further research.

An example of this would be that if you were to assess proofing as a control method following the same scale, it could potentially score quite severely. We know that proofing and prevention, in general, are the most proactive and humane methods of control we can enact. But, what would the welfare impact of excluding a rat from a building that contains its food source, or trapping it in a cavity, be? It could be of significant consequence.

Proofing does not have a killing method but trapping a rodent in a cavity or excluding it from its food may result in its death. That unintended killing method may introduce significant suffering for a prolonged period.

The same could be intimated for removing food sources, resulting in a similar effect. Not only are proofing, hygiene and housekeeping recommendations among the best and most effective tools available to a pest controller, but they are effectively mandated by law by the Environmental Health department to protect public health.

The last suggestion may seem a little sensational at first. It’s hard to solely justify the scoring of the welfare impact of a control measure in isolation because almost all urban commensal rodents naturally experience these welfare impacts daily, just as part of living in close association with humans.

This is my justification for stating that I believe anticoagulant

rodenticides receive a raw deal in the way they are scored in this study. This doesn’t mean I think the results of this study are without value, but they strongly point to the need for more research.

I think glue boards and snap traps scored fairly, but we must consider that the extended range for the welfare score for traps is because foul catches can happen. A snap trap can be the most humane option for rodent control while also potentially being the most inhumane option if a foul catch occurs.

I’m an advocate for a mandatory trap approval scheme, like the one proposed by Alex Wade, and for further training to ensure that professionals take time to consider trap deployment.

Protecting public health

While supporting the work that Dr Baker and other stakeholders achieved in this research, we need to ensure that we don’t evaluate the results in a vacuum.

With the term ‘pest’ being challenged by some well-intentioned people, we must remember that we define a pest out of necessity and not wanton disregard for the animal or species in question.

We control pests because of the essential requirement to protect public health, save food production, and create safe environments.

There exists a balance where we must consider the welfare impacts of what we do against this essential need. This is the biggest takeaway from the paper for me. Pest control has a welfare impact. It always will. But this should be considered in light of the implications for public health.

The alternative (is frightening)

Some may use the outcomes of this paper to justify irresponsible removal or restrictions of the essential toolkit of a professional pest controller

such as anticoagulants. I urge those individuals to consider the catastrophic implications that this would undoubtedly have on public health in the UK and worldwide.

Pests still need to be controlled. If our toolkit is diminished, we’ll work to operate with the remaining tools we have as professionals. But the associated costs of pest control will rise significantly, driving out those without the means to pay, and the untrained amateur will do whatever they deem fit behind the scenes. I can only imagine how dark a place this would be for animal welfare.

Obviously, the lethal methods we deploy to control rats do not end with a good welfare outcome for the rodents in question. So the question we need to ask ourselves is, “how can we have the best welfare impact possible”?

Pest professionals take animal welfare seriously. In return, we must ask animal welfare advocates to take professional pest control seriously.

Time to join the conversation

Please take the time to read this paper and form your own opinion on the research.

If you have a strong opinion on the research, write to us and we might publish your reply in the next PPC.

We have the BPCA Academic Relations Working Group founded, in part, to respond to discussions coming from this paper. How can we influence the research that is currently happening and ensure that our voice is heard?

Get involved today
hello@bpca.org.uk



PUBLIC HEALTH VS PESTS



MEDICAL PROBLEMS AND INFECTIONS FROM PESTS



The purpose of good pest management has always been to protect our health when certain animals come within problematic proximity to people. We asked Dr Alex Kew from University College London Hospitals to look at the public health risks that arise from common pests to better educate and protect our clients.



SEE ME AT PESTEX'22

"PestEx: Paws for thought - medical problems and infections from pests"
16 March at 10:30 in the Technical Theatre

SPEED VIEW

A study found at least 13 different infections in brown rats, with a few specimens having nine infections simultaneously

Leptospirosis can be picked up from food contaminated with rodent urine

Hantavirus symptoms include fever, low blood pressure, worsening shortness of breath and bloody or dark coloured urine that can look like Guinness

A common symptom of cryptosporidium infection is severe watery diarrhoea which can persist for two weeks and, on occasion longer, especially in those with weakened immune systems

The UK doesn't have many insect-transmitted diseases that are found globally - however climate change may see many become endemic

Untreated Lyme disease can go on to affect the nervous system, joints and heart

Overseas pathogens can sometimes be easily transported to the UK by migratory birds

Over the last 150 years or so, urban expansion has increased rapidly throughout the globe. This has not only brought with it encroachment into the natural habitat of many wild organisms but has also provided highly adapted urban specialist species with an increasing amount of environment for them to exploit.

This increasing interaction, between humans and species considered pests, has also seen a marked increase in the number of zoonotic infections spread by these species. In this article, we highlight a few of the more commonly seen infections to be aware of when dealing with some urban pests in the UK. We also indicate the signs that members of the public can look out for, depending on the pest encountered.



BIRDS

Much like rodents, there are many pathogens associated with birds and transmitted by birds that can affect humans. Unlike rodents, birds have wings, so pathogens associated with other countries can sometimes be easily transported to the UK by migratory birds.

We have not discussed every pathogen as it would make this article very long but have selected a few important infections to be aware of. These are split into bacteria and fungi. Avian flu is not discussed due to how it is managed and observed in the UK to prevent epidemic spread.



Bacteria

Psittacosis

Caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia psittaci*, transmission occurs after people come in contact with infected bird excrement or bird eye and beak discharge. People tend to inhale the bacteria, which can go on to cause no illness at all or more severe infection ranging from a chest infection to systemic fever, enlarged organs and weakness.

Pet owners, poultry workers and employment with close proximity to birds, nests and nesting sites increases the risk of infection. Antibiotics are effective at treating psittacosis.

Campylobacteriosis

Caused by the bacterium *Campylobacter jejuni*, transmission occurs via bird droppings and aerosols. Symptoms of campylobacter infection in persons with a normal immune system often include diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, and high temperatures. Diarrhoea can also be bloody with infection.

Most patients do not require treatment with symptoms lasting less than a week. Those with severe symptoms or who become very unwell can be treated with rehydration and antibiotics. Rarely, some patients can develop a rare post-infection neurological condition, called Guillain-Barre syndrome, and should have an urgent medical review if symptoms of numbness and muscle weakness in the hands, feet, arms or legs and problems with balance occur.

ONLINE CPD
An online CPD quiz based on this feature is now available on the BPCA website. BPCA affiliates can take a CPD quiz at any time bpca.org.uk/cpd-quiz or sign up at bpca.org.uk/affiliate

Fungus

Cryptococcosis

Caused by the yeast-like fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*, transmission occurs after inhalation and exposure to bird droppings and contaminated soil. Clinical disease is much more common in immunocompromised individuals, but infection can consist of chest infection, skin infection and meningitis. Anti-fungal treatment is available for anyone with concerning features or exposure history, especially if they are immunocompromised.



"...with a few individual rodents being found to carry 9 of the 13 infections all at the same time."

RODENTS

Rodents, primarily commensal rodents, have been associated with human disease and infection for hundreds if not thousands of years. The black rat *Rattus rattus*, the brown rat *Rattus norvegicus* and the house mouse *Mus musculus* can spread many pathogens into urban dwellings.

One study pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/7567093/ in the UK found at least 13 different infections in the brown rat population, with a few individual rodents being found to carry 9 of the 13 infections all at the same time. Regular defecation and urination of rodents, and movement around food sources can pose a particular health risk.



Bacteria

Salmonella/Vibrio/Listeria spp

These are all bacteria that can be caught from handling rodents or their droppings and urine. Illness associated with these bacteria can range from mild self-limiting gastroenteritis and diarrhoea to severe sepsis and multi-organ failure.

By far and away the most common presentation, especially in people with normal immune systems, is of mild gastroenteritis, which can resolve on its own.

Leptospirosis

This infection, caused by the bacterium *Leptospira*, often appears in the news after outdoor water swimmers become unwell and need antibiotic therapy. Although swimming in rivers and lakes can expose people to Leptospirosis, the infection can be spread by any exposure to rodent urine or other infected bodily fluids. This exposure also includes drinking or eating food items that have become contaminated with rodent urine.

Removing contaminated items and cleaning rodent urine and droppings, using correct precautions such as gloves and eye protection, is extremely important. Like many infections, Leptospirosis can be mild and self-limiting, presenting similarly to influenza.

However, some presentations can be much more severe with continuous high fevers, rash, headaches, muscle aches, chills, jaundice, kidney failure and bleeding, including blood in the sputum, urine, or faeces. Severe Leptospirosis is dangerous and so medical therapy should be sought immediately in someone presenting with severe symptoms so antibiotics can be administered.

Rat-bite fever

Commonly caused by the bacteria *Streptobacillus moniliformis* in Europe, this infection is not only spread by bites/scratches of rodents, hence the name, but can be spread by consumption of rodent excrement, often when people consume contaminated food items.

Symptoms can include rash, multiple painful joints, fevers, chills, headache, nausea, and vomiting. The infection can be significant and severe, and therefore antibiotic therapy is recommended for anyone suffering from rat-bite fever.

Parasites

Hantavirus

This RNA virus is acquired following exposure to rodent saliva, urine and faeces, and can cause a clinical syndrome with similarities to severe Leptospirosis. Symptoms can include a non-specific flu-like illness but can progress in some people to kidney failure.

Much like Leptospirosis, anyone presenting with severe or worsening symptoms of fever, low blood pressure, worsening shortness of breath and bloody or dark coloured urine that can look like Guinness after rodent exposure, is advised to seek immediate medical review.

Parasites

Hymenolepiasis

Hymenolepiasis is caused commonly by two species of tapeworm - the dwarf and rat tapeworm. Infection happens when humans ingest rodent excrement in contaminated food items, infected arthropods within food items or consume unintended infected material such as soil.

The infections themselves are often asymptomatic but can cause diarrhoea, abdominal pain, weakness and anorexia.

Cryptosporidiosis

Caused by the microscopic parasites *Cryptosporidium* spp, infection is caused when surfaces, unwashed hands, soil or water and food becomes contaminated with the faeces of infected rodents or other people.

The most common symptom of cryptosporidium infection is severe watery diarrhoea, which can persist for two weeks and, on occasion, longer, especially in those with weakened immune systems. Young children, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems can be particularly at risk of more severe diarrhoea.

As we can see, a number of these infections are acquired by consuming items contaminated with rodent excrement. Therefore any person with close contact or exposure to rodents should take extra precautions to make sure surfaces, food items and other materials are thrown away or decontaminated, and kept as clean and hygienic as possible.

/continued...

PUBLIC HEALTH VS PESTS



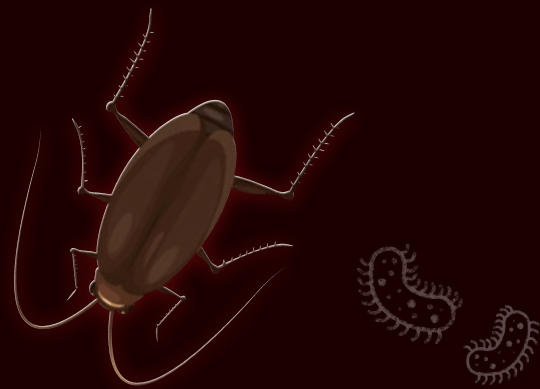
INSECTS AND ARACHNIDS

We are fortunate in the UK that many insect-transmitted diseases found globally, such as dengue and malaria, are not currently transmitted within our shores.

Climate change will almost certainly change this fact, and we may see many of these infections become endemic in the UK but, for this article, we will focus on the few infections to be wary of when considering insect and arachnid pests.

While there are many arthropod pests, each species can be broadly split into two categories: those that feed on human beings and those that do not.

“...in the not-too-distant future, we are likely to see more transmission of mosquito-borne pathogens.”



Blood feeding insects and arachnids - Fleas, mosquitoes, mites, lice, bed bugs, ticks, biting flies

Cellulitis/infected bite

The vast majority of infections that occur after arthropod bites in the UK are due to superadded bacterial infection.

Our skin is a natural barrier to infection. As such, breaks in the skin from a bite may allow bacteria such as group A streptococcus and staphylococcus aureus to enter and cause infection of the skin, known as cellulitis, or localised infection of the bite site.

Symptoms include hot, red, swollen, and painful skin with some bite lesions also discharging pus. Preventing bites from occurring, and good skincare and hygiene after bites have occurred, can help prevent such infections from happening, but if an infection does occur, antibiotics usually are enough to treat the infection. Skin infections can become severe, so a medical review should be sought if a bite or skin infection is present and worsening.

Lyme disease

Lyme disease is regularly mentioned in the national press and is caused primarily by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Transmission in the UK occurs through the bite of infected Ixodes ticks and characteristic symptoms including a bullseye skin rash at the site of the bite called erythema migrans, as well as fever, headache, and fatigue.

Untreated Lyme can go on to affect the nervous system, joints and heart. The best management is to prevent tick bites from happening in the first place, but if bitten and the characteristic symptoms appear, testing and treatment can be provided by medical practitioners.

Rickettsia felis/akari

Two species of Rickettsia bacteria can and have been transmitted in the UK, but many species cause disease globally, and changes to the environment and climate may result in more species being observed in the UK.

R.felis is transmitted by flea bites and *R.akari* by mite bites. *R.felis* can present like other rickettsia illnesses with high fever, rash and muscle aches. Antibiotic treatment is available, so a medical review is important if flea bitten people develop worsening symptoms as described above after flea bites. *R.akari*, otherwise known as rickettsial pox, is spread by house mouse mite bites and can also present with fevers and a rash. *R.akari*, unlike *felis*, is typically self-limiting, with those normally affected not requiring treatment.

Mosquitoes

As mentioned, in the not-too-distant future, we are likely to see more transmission of mosquito-borne pathogens.

Malaria, spread by mosquitoes, was endemic in the UK, with the last outbreak occurring as recently as 1921. As these pathogens spread further globally, illness resulting from a mosquito bite may become more severe than it currently is in the UK, requiring closer observation than mentioned here. Infection of the skin after being bitten by a mosquito, as mentioned, is the most likely infection to occur.

Non-blood feeding insects - cockroaches, ants, wasps, beetles

Gastroenteritis

Other than initial bites and stings from these insects that can lead to secondary bacterial skin infection as already mentioned, illness can be caused by these insects moving bacteria from a contaminated area into human dwellings and onto food items. For example, cockroaches feeding and moving around human waste and then moving into kitchens and onto food and surfaces can contaminate those materials with the bacteria they collected on their bodies while moving around waste.

Bacteria found in waste, like *E. coli*, can cause gastroenteritis when picked up from contaminated items. Most gastroenteritis acquired in this way is self-limiting, with good hydration being the mainstay of supportive care. Occasionally, antibiotics are required for severe diarrhoea or ongoing worsening symptoms. Good protective food storage and pest removal can help prevent diarrhoeal illnesses from occurring.



IN SUMMARY

We have discussed some of the more common illnesses that can be acquired from exposure to UK pests. The vast majority of these infections can be prevented if proper protective gear, eyewear, and clothing are worn, especially when close to pests and their excrement.

Lots of these infections can present the same way as other common illnesses. Therefore, good awareness of pest-related disease, as well as providing exposure history to medical professionals if people become unwell, can help guide the correct management.

Any patients or staff with suspected animal-related injury or illness can be referred by their GP to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London for further advice, investigation and management if needed.

OPINION

WHEN IS A PEST NOT A PEST?



BPCA Chief Exec Ian Andrew talks through what makes a pest a pest, and gives tips for professionals looking to help protect their toolkits from these challenges.

Never before has our sector's relationship with animal welfare been so much in the spotlight. Animal rights activists, researchers and legislators have turned their attention to how we control animals that are in conflict with humans.

Pest management is primarily about protecting public health. Too often, animal welfare shouts are louder than the public health voice.

Our sector's contribution to public health is beyond measure. It's impossible to calculate the number of illnesses and deaths we've helped avoid as a sector over time.

The second oldest trade?

For as long as humans have roamed the Earth, there's been pest management.

From the largest predators to the smallest insects, pests have come in all different shapes throughout time.

Let's get back to basics: no animal species is always a pest just because it might come into conflict with people. Some living creatures become pests, for some of the time.

Many of the creatures that we consider pests, such as rodents, flies, wasps and cockroaches, only become pests when they share the same space, affecting our health and well-being.

Nothing is born a pest

To be clear, whatever the pest, it's only deemed to be a pest in specific circumstances.

Most of the time, the things we determine to be pests are free to go about their own business in their environment, and are not deemed to be a pest as they do so.

'The only good rat is a dead rat' is not an acceptable line to take. Views like this do nothing but alienate the public and draw wrath from the regulators.

Being a pest is conditional on whatever risk exists of that living creature causing damage, disease or distress to humans.

A rat can live freely as a rat wherever it chooses, so can a mouse, fly, cockroach, ant, flea or bird. It's only when its location brings potential harm to us that the word 'pest' starts to apply.

Our lifestyles and habits have drawn animals closer to us than we'd like. Undoubtedly, society's habits need to change; however, until that big picture change happens, pest professionals are the best line of defence.

Pest or pain?

Having said that, what of the balance between pest and nuisance? At what point does an animal transition from nuisance to public health pest?

I've been a part of many debates on gulls and where they fit into this

"Is pinching chips and ice-creams at the seaside just a nuisance, or does this action cause sufficient risk for the gull to be considered a pest?"

scale. Is pinching chips and ice-creams at the seaside just a nuisance, or does this action cause sufficient risk for the gull to be considered a pest?

As pest management professionals, we must walk a fine line on these matters.

Of course, we will all agree that prevention is better than cure. Anything we can do or get our clients to do to proof and manage the problem out of existence has got to be better than continually having to take lethal action.

Going forward, I'm sure that we will face continued attacks on our profession and the methods that we use. We have seen it with glue boards and biocides. Many members are challenged when carrying out bird work, and I have no doubt that these types of challenges will continue and grow.

What can we do?

Remain professional. Be empathetic. Be scientific.

Be absolutely clear that you are mindful of animal welfare. But be even more clear that the work we're undertaking is to protect public health by preventing damage, disease and distress.

As we progress into 2022, we may not even be aware of some of the challenges ahead for us as a sector.

I am very confident that BPCA, as your trade association, will fight for our members and for the wider sector to protect our toolkit and the invaluable public health service we provide.

Your association. Your view.

It's the perfect time to join your Association or volunteer your time on a Committee. Members will shape the way we protect our sector. If you have the time and passion to help protect your toolkit (and you work for a member company), contact Ian today.

hello@bpca.org.uk



BACK TO BASICS

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENTS

ERAs AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM



WATCH AT PESTEX'22

"Environmental risk assessments"

16 March at 09:30 in the
Spotlight Theatre



"Don't roll the dice when it comes to protecting the planet; always do environmental risk assessments", says BPCA Head of Technical, Dee Ward-Thompson. In this article she takes it back to basics and explains what ERAs are and why it's important to carry them out.

After over 17 years in the pest management industry, and too many years being involved with controlling pests in other professions (no guessing how old I am, please), the term I hear uttered with most dread is 'environmental risk assessments'.

The adjectives used to describe these are always negative: confusing, stressful, worrying, concerning, to name just a few.

Why do these three words cause such strong reactions? Is it the paperwork, the evaluation, or are we overcomplicating something that we do naturally in our everyday lives?

When I was a child my father taught me a very valuable lesson, one which I have carried with me throughout my life: when something is confusing, break it down - when something is stressful, hit it head on.

So let's do just that. Let's break down these three words and hit them head on.

ENVIRONMENTAL

adjective /ɪn.vai.rə'nɪ.men.təl/

The adjective 'environmental' is used in so many ways; we hear it, and the noun 'environment', almost daily and it can have many definitions, but at its most simplistic, it's just our surroundings.

When we think about the environment we associate it with our planet, normally in relation to what we're doing to damage it.

Our use of plastics and chemicals, our industrial progression, our construction - all of these have an impact on our natural surroundings.

World leaders are formulating plans, urging us to change. We're all trying to reduce the negative impacts we have on our surroundings to save our planet.

When we think about impacts to our environment, pest management plays a role. We use chemicals, we create waste plastic, waste packaging and we use things in our daily activities that could have negative impacts.

RISK

noun /rɪsk/

'Risk', like the word 'environment', is something we're equally familiar with as pest technicians.

If we strip it down to its most basic meaning, it's a situation involving exposure to harm or danger. The legal definition is 'any potential danger that threatens to harm or destroy an object, event or person'.

Risk evaluation is so instinctive that we tend to forget how often we do it.

We 'take a risk' every time we get in our cars, walk down the street, take a chance on love, or even walk down the stairs in the morning. And if you have a dog like mine that leaves toys on the stairs, you would know what a risk that is!

My point is that we do it without even thinking; it's a crucial survival mechanism.

ASSESSMENT

noun /ə'ses.mənt/

'Assessment' is the action of evaluating someone or something. It's the process of gathering and discussing information from different sources.

When we associate assessment with risk, then its meaning changes slightly. The definition of a 'risk assessment' is a systematic process of identifying hazards and evaluating any associated implications.

We then need mitigation measures to reduce risks to an acceptable level, or 'residual risk' as it is more commonly known.

Without sounding like a worn-out record, this form of assessment, just like with risk, is something we do so naturally that we don't even know we're doing it.

When we get in our vans, we evaluate the risks and mitigate constantly: how we drive, the speed we travel, and the focus we put into driving from A to B, is all 'risk assessment'.

We may not consciously think about it that way but that is what we're doing.

Put it together

So, now that we've broken down the words, what does it all mean?

Firstly, we need to put it all together again with some meaning. Environmental risk assessments evaluate anything that can cause harm or danger to our surroundings, whether that's the chemicals we use, other products or even just our actions.

Remember, hazards and risks are anything that can cause harm or danger, and we should evaluate the likelihood of this happening. We need to think about our tasks and their impacts on our surroundings.

The important thing to note is: this is not just about rodenticide use.

Absolutely, we need to do an ERA if we're choosing to use a rodenticide. As professionals we're legally bound to, as it is specified on the label. But, whatever the task, we should always evaluate the risks to our surroundings.

Protecting our surroundings and our environment is our moral and ethical responsibility.

Now that we've established what an ERA is, and when and why we should be doing it, how does it all come together in practice?

Try not to overthink it; just draw on your natural instincts, let them guide you through the process. Every day that you go to work as a pest management professional you'll evaluate the impact your actions or activities will have on your surroundings.

These can include risks to non-targets animals, including birds of prey, scavenging birds, other birds and mammals.

If you've identified a risk to birds, you mitigate this by using a bait formulation that won't spill. You'll use only tamper resistant bait boxes and ensure you visit regularly to remove carcasses.

If you decide on traps you'll ensure they are in appropriate areas, that they are secured and that no protected species have been reported.

When called to treat a wasp nest you'll make sure there is no water close by and that the ground is not contaminated during treatment.

TOOLS TO HELP

Templates can be useful as a guide, listing all of the risks that could potentially be on each site.

Mitigation measures, such as using tamper resistant bait boxes, using traps before rodenticides, recommendations before choosing chemicals, frequently checking for rodent bodies, disposing of them safely – all of these can be included on your templates or even on reports for clients.

These measures will help reduce the impact that your treatment plan could have on the environment.

The final part of the puzzle is to reach a conclusion, so ask yourself these questions:

- Have you assessed potential environmental impacts and risks to non-target species?
- Have you considered how carrying out treatment could affect the environment and ensure risks to non-target species are minimised?
- Can you justify your chosen actions, both legally and morally?

Hopefully, by following this process, you can answer yes to all of those questions.

By taking a pause and thinking, you'll satisfy yourself that you are doing your best to protect the environment you work in. In doing so, you also demonstrate to clients that you have a legal, moral and ethical outlook; you'll show them how professional pest managers protect the world around us.



Looking for risk assessment templates?

BPCA members have access to free templates and tools in the member document library.

bpca.org.uk/library (login required)

“Can you justify your chosen actions, both legally and morally?”



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PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY BIRD

	ENGLAND	STABILITY ★★☆☆	SCOTLAND	STABILITY ★★
In consultation?	None planned this year		Review and consultation in 2022	
Issued by	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) gov.uk/government/publications/wild-birds-licence-to-kill-or-take-for-public-health-or-safety-gl41		NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage) nature.scot/doc/general-licence-birds-gl032022-kill-or-take-certain-birds-preservation-public-health-public-safety	
Valid until (unless revoked)	31 December 2023		31 December 2022	
Public health and safety licence	GL41		GL03	
Permitted target species for which action is to be taken	Licence to kill or take for public health or safety			
	Slips and falls	Human disease spread	Bird nesting issues	
Canada goose (Branta Canadensis)	✓	✓	✓	
Feral pigeon (Columba livia)	✓	✓	✓	
Jackdaw (Corvus monedula)	✗	✗	✓	
Monk parakeet (Myiopsitta monachus)	✗	✗	✓	
Hooded Crow (Corvus cornix)	✗	✗	✗	
Carrion Crow (Corvus corone)	✗	✗	✗	
Magpie (Pica pica)	✗	✗	✗	
Woodpigeon (Columba palumbus)	✗	✗	✗	
Rook (Corvus frugilegus)	✗	✗	✗	
House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)	✗	✗	✗	
Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)	✗	✗	✗	
Gulls (all species)	✗	✗	✗	
Other general licences	GL33: trapping wild birds: standard licence conditions GL40: general licence to kill or take certain species of wild birds to conserve wild birds, flora or fauna of conservation concern GL42: General Licence to kill or take certain species of wild birds to prevent serious damage			GL01: To kill or take certain birds for the conservation of wild birds GL02: To kill or take certain birds for the prevention of serious damage to livestock GL03: To kill or take certain birds for the preservation of public health, public safety and preventing the spread of disease GL04: To take red grouse using certain methods in order to administer medication or collect samples GL15: Sale, advertisement, possession and transportation of Greylag geese and Greylag goose meat by hunters, caterers and retailers
Methods approved	Prick eggs Oil eggs Destroy eggs and nests Kill or take by hand Targeted falconry Trap with a permitted cage trap design Shoot with any firearm, including semi-automatic weapons, shotguns or airguns Take birds while not in flight with any hand-held or hand-propelled net			Prick eggs Oil eggs Destruction of eggs and nests By hand Targeted falconry Shoot with any firearm, including semi-automatic firearms, shotguns or airguns
Traps	No requirement to register traps			All traps must also be registered with NatureScot, not Police Scotland
What about gulls?	Apply for an individual licence from Natural England For urban environments, applicants must submit an Integrated Management Plan			Apply for an individual licence from NatureScot

CONTROL LICENCES IN THE UK



Given how fast things have changes in the world of bird management over the last few years, it can be hard to keep track of the status of various bird control wildlife licences.

Wildlife licences are regularly reviewed and updated by licensing bodies. Licences are usually reissued at the start of the year, meaning you should re-download, read and understand them regularly.



REMEMBER:

You don't need to apply for general licences however you do need to abide by their conditions.

Wildlife licences are devolved so individual nations issue bird control licences.

Licences are reissued regularly and therefore it's important to understand how to read and follow them.



GENERAL DISCLAIMER

Always read your general licence and understand it. Licences can be pulled at any time, so double-check your licence is still available. You should always exhaust all practicable non-lethal methods of bird control, before you take lethal action.

WALES STABILITY ★	NORTHERN IRELAND STABILITY ★
In consultation now - evidence being reviewed	Pending consultation - licences very likely to change
Natural Resources Wales (NRW) cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/694500/general-licence-002-english-2022.pdf	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/wildlife-licensing
30 June 2022	
GL002	TPG02
Preservation of public health	Preventing the spread of disease and preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber and fisheries
✓	✓
✓	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✓
✗	✗
GL001: Prevention of serious damage to crops and livestock GL004: Conservation of wild birds GL005: Allows the management of the ruddy duck	TPG01 TPG03
Shooting or by any other method not prohibited by Section 5 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006	Shooting Cage-trap or net Take, damage or destroy nests Take or destroy their eggs Disturb such a bird or the dependant young of such a bird Any other method not prohibited by Article 6 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)
No requirement to register traps	
Apply for an individual licence from NRW	NI licences have been replaced with amended, interim licences Several bird species, notably the three species of gull, have been removed from all general licences

BPCA is in conversation with DAERA to secure licenses for gull control, as gull species have been removed from all general licenses in N Ireland.

A SIX-PACK IN 75 DAYS?

HEALTHIER ROUTINES FOR PEST PROFESSIONALS



Michael Coates, co-founder of Combat Pest Control, is a military veteran passionate about promoting psychological and physical health in the pest management community. Michael shares his learning about looking after himself (and his community) from his time in the forces and pest control.

It was 19 June 2019 when I looked at myself in the mirror and, for the first time in my life, I didn't know who I was looking at.

The previous four years had seen a lot of change; children born, Dad died, business was full-on, my sleep was poor, and I was saying yes to, well, everything.

I stopped looking after myself. I drank a few beers most nights, ate what I wanted, and barely exercised.

On that day (my birthday), I decided to change the path I was walking down. I had to start a more positive routine.

Small steps lead to big progress

Six months went by and, although I had made some minor changes, I still wasn't feeling my usual self, both physically and mentally. It's 2020, and we're in lockdown.

This was when I had my most significant mindset shift. I set myself some targets and goals then told my family and friends. I wanted a real change, and it seemed like the best time to do it.

I decided on 75 days of continuous habits to get me back on top of my game. These daily habits included:

- Take 90 minutes of exercise
- Drink four litres of water
- Drink no alcohol
- Read before bed.

I could feel some minor changes happening in two weeks, but the biggest was the feeling that I was in control.

75 day reflections

I completed the 75 days, and I still maintain good routines and habits to this day.

I'm no angel. I'll have a few beers or a slice of cake from time to time. But looking inward and taking responsibility has had a huge effect on me.

So, if you're here for my tips on creating a six-pack, here they are. Not a physical one, but a psychological six-pack!

1 SLEEP

If you get this right, it'll have the most significant impact on your well-being. Cut screen time at around 9.30pm and read a book before bed. Reduce caffeine intake at least four hours before bed. And monitor your sleep; I use an Oura Ring. Your target is eight hours.

2 HYDRATION

I weigh around 15 stone and try to drink at least three litres of water per day. When I'm out in a van, I drink 750ml before going out. I take two water bottles in the van and drink another when I get home. Everything becomes better being fully hydrated (although you will need more toilet stops).

3 ALCOHOL

I'm not here to preach; there's nothing wrong with a few beers with friends. But frequent alcohol intake generates a larger weekly calorie intake, adversely impacting sleep and negatively altering your mood (hours and even days after).

4 FOOD

Keep it simple and keep yourself in control. Try preparing your lunch the night before if you're in the van. Concentrate on green vegetables, high-quality protein and remove as much sugar as possible (think fruit juices, energy drinks and fizzy pop).

5 EXERCISE

To start, go for a walk in nature at least twice a week. If you haven't exercised in a while, then start small. There's no need for gym memberships and fancy kit. Focus on making habits that will last a lifetime, which means making small changes slowly.

6 SOCIAL SUPPORT

Stay in touch with positive friends. Send them a message. Give them a call. Organise a meet-up. Staying connected to good people improves your mental health.

AND A BONUS ONE...

Take a cold shower. Start with 30 seconds and build up to two minutes. You're now doing something 99% of people won't do! I find this toughens me up and improves my mental fitness. It also feels great afterwards!

Take these tips as guidance; I don't have all the answers, but I know that looking after yourself has to be part of your daily routine. It requires self-discipline, and sometimes it can be challenging, but if you don't recognise the person in the mirror, it's worth starting to change today.



SEE ME AT PESTEX'22

"Psychological fitness and what the pest control sector can learn from the military community"

March 16 12:00 in the Spotlight Theatre

COMBAT

PEST CONTROL

We have a very clear vision of how we 'do' business. In 2015, Des Fraser and I sat at my kitchen table to discuss what we'd need to set up a pest business. I'd been in the industry a few years, running parallel with my career in the fire service.

We decided on four fundamentals:

- Our team would consist of military veterans, reservists and spouses (we both served in the British Army)
 - We wanted to educate and assist children in conflict
 - Protecting our clients had to be at the forefront of what we did
 - We'll support injured service personnel.
- We later expanded this point to include exploring how injured service personnel can impact society.

Fast forward five years, and 75% of our team are members of the military community. We have provided over 60,000 days of education to children and funded the clearing of thousands of metres of minefields using our partnership with APOPO.

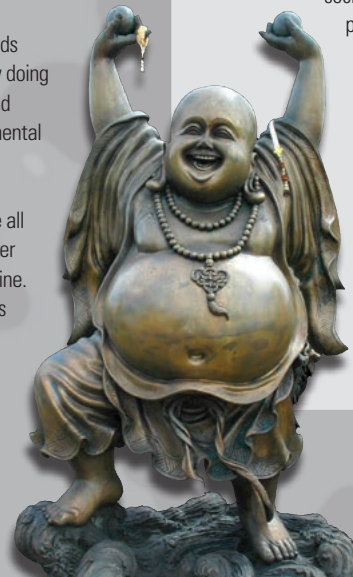
We've gained some fantastic clients over the years, focusing on



social and supported housing. Our podcast 'Declassified' won gold for best interview and bronze for best well-being podcast in the British Podcast Awards 2020. We've had nearly 500,000 downloads.

audioboom.com/channels/4961964

We're still learning in business and have a long way to go, but our vision keeps us on the right path.



MEET THE MEMBER

CHANNEL YOUR PEST CONTROL PASSION



Rob Long is the founder and owner of Sabre Kent Pest Control, and former BPCA Board member. He spoke to PPC about his time on BPCA Committees and why you should volunteer.

PPC How did you get started in pest control?

RL Initially I was a brickie by trade, but I started working in pest control for National Britannia in 1997. I loved the work, so I signed up for all the training courses they had going, just soaking it all up like a big sponge.

PPC How did you go from being a technician to running your own pest control business?

RL After National Britannia was bought by Terminix, I worked for them for a while and then went to work for Eagle. It was run by the Trotmans, and Pete Trotman was fantastic.

I quickly became a zero tolerance and total riddance guy, and after a while we were eradicating pests on sites that had problems since the 60s.

But I quickly realised that working for other companies, you sometimes ended up being bought and sold more times than a cow at market.

In 2005 I set up my own business, Absolute Pest Control, with my business partner. The first two years were very hard but eventually we had about 12 people working for us.

Then, unfortunately, I had a health scare and decided to sell my business. I was going to retire but my son was devastated. He said he had always planned to come and work for me, so I told him I would set up a small business and that he could take it over once he was ready.

And that's why I set up Sabre Kent in 2012.

PPC How did you end up volunteering for BPCA?

RL While I was at Absolute in 2006 a great friend of mine, Ken Heseltine, spoke to me about the possibility of volunteering.

I joined the Servicing Committee; there was myself, Jenny Humphrey and Dee, before she worked for BPCA, plus a few others.

It was very rough around the edges back then.

But it really started to improve when we got a change of CEO and Simon Forrester came in; he took the bull by the horns and made big strides to improve how the Committees were run.

He attended the Committee meetings himself, he made them interesting and he got the right people in to speak. He created a really good baseline for how the committees should be run.

At around the same time we also had a change of Chair: Phil Halpin, the current BPCA President.

PPC What was being on the Board like for you?

RL I don't think I was ever quite prepared for the amount of work I'd be getting!

I'm dyslexic and so I struggle quite a bit, but I was never any less capable than other people on the Board, and I ended up doing some great work with my fellow board members.

It was brilliant, we were actually changing things and we could see them happening instead of talking about it. That's the part I was really proud of. It was a lot of hard work but incredibly worthwhile.

PPC What are the achievements you're most proud of from your time volunteering with BPCA?

RL I feel really proud of CEPA Certified and I was also involved in having the CPD requirement made mandatory. Back in the early days, our big thing was about getting people on a professional register and making it mandatory for people to be on a CPD scheme.

That was the first time I was involved in something that really changed the industry and I felt proud that I'd been a part of something important.

PPC Why do you think it's important to volunteer for the Board and Committees?

RL The best thing about BPCA is that it's run by members. The direction of the Association comes from the Board and Committees, and our vision is carried out by the Staff team. You don't always get things your own way, but your input is always valued and will be debated, and those different voices are important.

Different minds operate in different ways, and the ones who are passionate are the ones you can learn the most from. And it's those passionate

"Knowing you've made changes for the good of the industry is a great feeling. If you want to make a difference to the industry, stop whinging about it, volunteer and do something."

people who volunteer for BPCA who are the ones best placed to help improve an industry they're so proud to be a part of.

Knowing you've made changes for the good of the industry is a great feeling.

If you want to make a difference to the industry, stop whinging about it, volunteer and do something.

PPC And what would your advice be to people who are thinking of volunteering their time to BPCA?

RL If you're really passionate about joining up, go as a guest a few times before you commit to it. Get the feel for it. It's always been a very friendly and welcoming environment.

When some people take the volunteering on, I don't think they realise how much work can be involved.

But if you're passionate and willing to put in the time, it is so worth it.

It's also CPD; it helps your personal and professional development, which in turn helps your business.

It's not about sticking 'board member' on your CV or LinkedIn. It's about taking part, contributing, doing your homework, pulling your weight with any of the projects.


You'll amass a wealth of knowledge in the process on something you're very passionate about.

If you want to change things in the industry for the better, not just for the sake of changing them, then this is how.

Learn, share and connect with your virtual and local pest events.

FREE CPD EVENTS AND WEBINARS

Event type **Webinar** **Local forum** **Virtual forum**

Name	When?	CPD	Sponsor
HIERARCHY OF RODENT CONTROL	3 March	1	
 <p>ExCeL, London 16-17 March Connect and protect at PestEx: networking + trade hall + seminars + CPD pestex.org</p>			
DIGITAL 13	6 April	3	BASF
TRENDING ANALYSIS FOR EFK CAPTURE	7 April	1	
CARRYING OUT PEST SURVEYS BEST PRACTICE	5 May	1	
WALES	17 May	6	Deadline
NORTH	7 June	6	BASF
HIERARCHY OF INSECTICIDE USAGE	9 June	1	
SCOTLAND	21 June	6	
DIGITAL 14	29 June	3	Lodi UK

The best pest events

For the latest information on all of our free events, visit bpca.org.uk/events

Pssst! NEW

Non-member 'open days'
Special online events for pest management companies that are NOT members of BPCA. Learn about membership, meet Board members and ask questions. Learn more and book at bpca.org.uk/secret

5 pm, 24 March
5 pm, 21 July
5pm, 24 November

Name	When?	CPD	Sponsor
UNDERSTANDING ULV FOGGING TREATMENTS	7 July	1	
DIGITAL 15	19 July	3	Bell Labs
WRITING THE PERFECT PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT	4 August	1	
MOUSE CONTROL BEST PRACTICE AND TIPS FOR MANAGEMENT	1 September	1	
WEST	20 September	6	Killgerm
NORTHERN IRELAND	5 October	6	1env
RODENT BEHAVIOURAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL RESISTANCE	6 October	1	
SOUTH	1 November	6	Syngenta
PROFESSIONAL PEST PROOFING STRATEGIES	3 November	1	
DIGITAL 16	29 November	3	Edialux
ZOONOSES: PEST-TO-PEOPLE PATHOGENS	1 December	1	
MIDLANDS	6 December	6	Lodi UK



view a sample issue on our website

International Pest Control (IPC) magazine is an independent, bi-monthly magazine for the pest control industry. It is the leading magazine in the world dealing with all aspects of pest prevention and pest eradication.

IPC provides authoritative reviews of pest control developments worldwide, with news, articles, reviews, features and comments. It is published in the interest of everyone concerned with the control of infestation of all types - in agriculture; in food manufacturing, storage and distribution; in domestic, commercial and industrial premises. It uniquely provides information on all markets and all pests. Our 2022 features include:

- Vector Control/Biting Invertebrates - Biocontrol and IPM
- Pests in the Food and Hospitality Industry - Technology in Pest Control
- Vertebrate Pests/Rodents and Birds - Managing Storage Pests

Special subscription offer for PestEx attendees ordering through our website - a subscription to IPC at the bargain price of £60 for six issues! (a saving of £25)

Enter the Coupon code [pestex22](#) at checkout on our website: international-pest-control.com/product/personal-subscription

Your subscription includes six printed issues per year, plus access to the complete archive from 2004 while you have a live subscription. Issues can be accessed online including via mobile devices - benefits include a translation tool and comprehensive search facility across all issues.

www.international-pest-control.com
raspatel@international-pest-control.com


BPCA

Driving excellence in pest management

BPCA is the professional association for the UK public health pest management industry. Our aim is to promote professional pest management, representing the industry, driving standards and ethics while protecting the environment.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A look back at all BPCA our members have achieved together in 2021. BPCA is a not-for-profit organisation acting in the interests of our members and on behalf of the pest management industry in the UK.

Our annual report is published in PPC magazine - making it accessible to thousands of pest professionals and the entire sector. While it's been another tricky year, BPCA has plenty to celebrate.

It's BPCA's job to...

REPRESENT

Our industry to authorities to protect your toolkit



Our members to influencers to extend your reach

Our members to commercial end-users to show your value

Our members to general public to show your value

Ourselves to the sector and our members to be heard

SUPPORT

Technical (pest control) to help you do it well



Health and safety to help you do it safely

Business to help you do it profitably

Teams to help you do it together

Others to help you do it with us

ASSURE

Service standards to demonstrate our quality

Environmental protection to demonstrate our sustainability

Competence to demonstrate our professionalism

Health and safety standards to demonstrate our responsibility

Ethical practices to demonstrate that we care



MASSIVE MILESTONES

- January** BPCA asks health secretary for pest professionals to get Covid-19 vaccine
Professional Standards and Outreach and Communications committees formed.
- February** The online Certificated Advanced Technician (CAT) accreditation is launched
- March** PestExtra – the all-digital pest management show goes live
Member Award winners announced at BPCA's 79th AGM
BPCA Life Membership awarded to CRRU Chairman, Dr Alan Buckle
- June** Technicians takeover BPCA's social media for World Pest Day
BPCA secures funding for 3D interactive simulator
John, Kristian, Emily and Rachael all join the BPCA Staff team
- July** After almost ten years of outstanding service, Finance Officer Stephanie Costopoulos retires
- August** BPCA launches lobbying campaign to save glue boards for professional use
HSE accept BPCA as UK REACH Accredited Stakeholder
- September** Registration opens for PestEx 2022
BPCA members take home almost every prize at the National Pest Awards
- October** BPCA Night School launches
BPCA wins Covid-19 key worker campaign award
BPCA commits to Planet Mark certification
Academic Relations working group launched
BPCA's contribution acknowledged as part of sustainable use of pesticides national action plan
Improved BPCA member documents library is launched
- November** 'Onboarding a pest technician' framework and support released
BPCA's lobbying sees glue boards in England licenced rather than banned completely
New Code of Conduct for 2022 launched
- December** BPCA shortlisted for TAF Best Practice Awards 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

IT'S TIME TO THRIVE



In what will be my last annual report as BPCA's president, I'm proud to say that I have plenty of great things to celebrate when looking back on 2021.

Committee commitment

Our four fantastic committees are now strategically focused. Everyone has a role to play, and around 70 member companies are represented through committees. Rather than trying to explain all the great work they're doing on your behalf, we've made space for our committee chairs to give their own reports this year.

Thank you to everyone who dedicates their time to BPCA's committees. These volunteers do much of the work of the Association and keep our organisation focused on delivering what pest management companies need to survive and thrive.

Pride and pandemics

Many of us would have hoped that the pandemic would be old news by now. However, 2021 continued to challenge our sector. Through our constant communications, the technical expertise of our team, and our frequent consultations with members, BPCA is stronger and has a more effective voice than ever.

In 2020, this was recognised by us achieving key worker status, and in 2021, we were awarded an Association Excellence Award for this lobbying work. Some amazing associations and professional bodies fiercely contested this massive award, yet BPCA's consistently strong voice meant we were nationally recognised for our work. You should be rightfully proud that you're a part of an award-winning, leading Association – not just in pest management – but across all sectors in the UK.

Covid has been an international tragedy, and many members have lost loved ones and seen their businesses suffer. However, BPCA has learned valuable lessons that'll put us all in better stead for the future.

Pests in politics

2021 saw BPCA enter the scary world of politics with a purpose. Your Board allocated a significant spend on public affairs work to proactively engage with our elected officials, raising the profile and influence of the sector.

This work was swiftly put to the test when the Glue Traps (Offences) Bill was hoisted into parliament. Despite regulators stating they had no intention of including an exemption for pest professionals, BPCA members came together to create a compelling case for protecting public health. Soon the Bill was amended to include a licensing programme for pest controllers. You spoke, they listened, and BPCA made that happen. It was an exciting year to be a member, never mind President!

Your staff team

With all this going on in the background, membership support never once took a hit.

BPCA recruited two new team members to help deliver our revamped membership assessments. BPCA membership remains the highest pest management standard in the UK and incorporates the BS EN 16636 Standard. If you haven't met Kristian or John yet, they'll be arranging an assessment visit with you shortly. Please make sure you use your time wisely. They're here to help and support.

Remember to do your bit by telling your customers why you choose to be a BPCA member. When your clients choose a BPCA member, they're assured you're being held to the highest standards.

A massive welcome to John and Kristian – they're settling in great. Also, Emily and Rachael joined the BPCA staff team in the finance department. They've worked diligently on the end of year figures included in this report and fit in incredibly well. We said goodbye to Stephanie, our Finance Officer, who decided to retire in 2021. She's missed by the Staff team and all the members she came into contact with.

I'd also like to thank our Staff team. While we volunteers are effectively part-timers (having our own pest management businesses to run), the Staff team lives and breathes BPCA to ensure our vision is delivered.

Whether it's delivering the sector's first all-digital tradeshow PestExtra, supporting members on the phone, developing guidance and support, providing us with fantastic CPD resources, or keeping the day-to-day operations running, they're all incredibly dedicated to our sector. Thanks for your support.

Your board and goodbyes

At a Board level, we've been upskilling to make sure we can meet members' needs. Led by Ian Andrew, we've committed time outside of Board meetings to ensure we're the best directors we can be. And yes, I've been recording every session on BPCA Registered for my CPD!

My time as President is coming to an end. I'll remain on the Executive Board for some time yet, serving as your Immediate Past President. It's been a huge commitment but an even bigger honour to be your President.

While the pandemic might have kept me from meeting as many members as I'd have liked or getting together in a physical room with my fellow volunteers, I believe it's been a great three-year term.

I do not doubt that all BPCA members will continue to drive excellence in pest management through their actions, cooperation and genuine passion for protecting public health. Whether it's Brexit, pandemics, chemical regulations, politics, recessions, new technology or a challenge we can't even see yet – BPCA will be here to represent, assure and support your critical work.

Phil Halpin

BPCA President

president@bpca.org.uk

YOUR ASSOCIATION. YOUR PASSION.



Firstly, I'd like to wish you, your families and your businesses the best for the forthcoming year.

2021, in the end, turned out to be a surprisingly good year for the Association. Like many, I think we planned prudence but were cautiously optimistic too.

Membership numbers were up (the key health indicator for us) with excellent retention and, just as importantly, good growth in new members. These two metrics indicate that the Association is generally moving in the right direction to support membership and the wider sector.

Our strategic vision is clear (see page 27), but we'd love to hear your feedback, whether that be via the Forums, membership assessments, committees or in person at PestEx this month.

2021 saw us continue to invest and develop in our digital offering, and this continues to be well received by you. Indeed most of our revenue growth came from training-related activities. A big thank you to Karen and the team here. This is increasingly becoming a highly competitive space, and we know that we'll need to remain at the forefront of innovation and content quality if you continue to support us.

Traditional face-to-face style training was down, but given another Covid year, that's hardly surprising. We're aware digital communication has its challenges. Still, there are many benefits, especially when it's allowed us ultimately to engage better and serve you (although we're certainly looking forward to seeing you all at PestEx!).

As part of the strategy, we've rearranged our membership team under Dee's leadership and invested in two additional field support staff, to ensure we improve direct engagement and support.

Despite the restrictions of operating a primarily closed office at Derby, I'd hope that you'll agree that Ian and his team have again done an amazing job in continuing to run the Association in a near-normal business-as-usual fashion.

For 2022, we're cautiously optimistic. We have strong finances backed by a good reserves policy. This year's PestEx will bring new challenges. We are post-Brexit and still affected by Covid, but it'll almost certainly be the highlight of the year, and no less so than for our finances.

To close, I would like to thank you for your support and, as always, encourage everyone, both old and new, to become involved with what is, after all, your trade association.

I'll remind you that for it to work, it needs you, your passion, and your energy. Please attend the Forums, join in with your local Contract Sharing Network, serve on a committee or even the Board. Why not find out how the Association serves its members and the wider industry?

I wish everyone success with their businesses in 2022.

Mark Williams
BPCA Honorary Treasurer
finance@bpca.org.uk

THEY WORK FOR YOU

The Executive Board is the governing body of the Association and Board Members, as Directors, have a duty of care to both BPCA Members and the BPCA Staff team. The Board's emphasis is on strategy and performance, stewardship and conformance. The Board also ensures that resources are used appropriately (money, time, staff etc) and that relevant legislation is adhered to.

			Meetings attended (max 6)
President	Philip Halpin	Countrywide Environmental Services	6
	Mike Ayers	Precision Pest Management	4
Vice Presidents	Chris Cagienard	Pest Solutions	6
Honorary Treasurer	Mark Williams	Ecolab	5
Immediate Past President	Martin Harvey	Harvey Environmental Services	1 (to 30/7/21)
	Tom Holmes	Pelsis	5 (from 30/7/21)
Manufacturers and Distributors Committee Chair	Anthony O'Hare	BASF	3 (from 21/9/21)
Servicing Committee Chair	Martin Rose-King	Bounty Pest Control	5
Outreach and Communications Committee Chair	Julia Pittman	Beaver Pest Control	4
Professional Standards Committee Chair	Malcolm Stowell	Safeguard Pest Control and Environmental Services	5
	Jason Cholerton	CSS Pest Services	6
	Chris Corbett	Aderyn	6
	Mick Kilburn	Elite Pest Management	6
Board Members	Michael Taylor	Contego Environmental Services	5
	Paul Westgate	Veritas Pest Consultancy	5
	Mark White	Dealey Environmental	6

SERVICING COMMITTEE REPORT

FRESH INPUT, FRESH IDEAS



It's been an interesting year for the Committee with the introduction of member rotation. This has seen a mixture of previous members continuing their valuable voluntary contributions, along with new members joining and bringing fresh ideas. In my last year as Chair, it's pleasing to see that the Association's longest operating committee continues to develop.

We've continued liaison with M&D which gives valuable opportunities for servicing and M&D members to query upcoming changes and clarify ongoing product use. As always, a thank you from me to Daniel Lightfoot for attending servicing meetings and a thank you to committee members who attend M&D meetings to represent BPCA servicing members.

Committee members have been busy helping the BPCA Staff team to develop new and

enhancing existing guidance documents. These documents are an important member benefit and are used by many servicing companies.

In our April meeting, servicing members raised concerns regarding the inconsistency of service when sub-contracting drain investigation work. As a result, committee members have engaged with the National Drainage Contractors Association with a view to creating a guidance document for BPCA members.

The Committee is also continuing to advocate a mandatory trap approval scheme so that servicing members have a proactive voice regarding the quality and effectiveness of break-back traps.

Committee members have also been engaging with companies to try to develop some new member benefits. Some of these companies have now been listed in the member benefits area of the BPCA site.

January 2022 marks my final year as chair of the Servicing Committee and will also mark my last meeting. I've enjoyed every minute of being part of the Servicing Committee since joining seven years ago.

Our industry is ever-changing so I hope the next seven years will be as interesting for the Committee going forward!

Martin Rose-King
Servicing Committee Chair
membership@bpca.org.uk

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

GETTING OUT THERE



December 2020 saw the creation of a new Committee designed to overview how we communicate with our members, stakeholders, and the outside world.

Our first year of operations saw us work on some very interesting and exciting projects in the 'represent' and 'support' spaces of BPCA strategy.

Our agendas have updates from the Staff team, Shepherd PR on press wins, and progress from our public affairs partners, Nudge Factory. We are starting to see some real successes:

- Ian Andrew is connecting with various MPs and ministers
- There is some exciting news to come regarding the opening of PestEx 2022
- And the current engagement with government for the Glue Board (Offences) Bill, gaining a licensing exemption for pest professionals.

BPCA is positioning itself as the voice of the industry – this is an area that is set for more success in the future.

Following on from 2021, we have some substantial projects in 2022. We will put our creative thinking caps on to work out how best to deliver these sensational projects:

- Getting pest management on the national policy agenda
- Delivering networking events across all four home nations parliaments
- Continuing to raise awareness of members in the media through the 'Be Protected' campaign
- We will reach out to local authorities to encourage them to signpost to BPCA members
- Watch this space for news on the BPCA app
- Finally, we will develop a new marketing strategy for the BPCA.

I'd like to thank our committee members and extend a warm welcome to our new recruits who have just joined us. I'm very excited to see what this incredible team can do with our new projects.

We are still looking for talented and creative people with ideas to join our Committee, so please get in touch if you are interested and would like to observe a meeting. Many hands make light work!

Julia Pittman
Outreach and Communications Committee Chair
marketing@bpca.org.uk

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

ONGOING IMPROVEMENT



My thanks go out to my fellow committee members and also the BPCA Staff team who have worked exceptionally hard in their respective roles to make this inaugural year for the Professional Standards Committee a special and successful year.

The membership review analysis project reviewed membership criteria, member benefits and services, categories of membership and subscriptions. The project began with research involving BPCA members that explored the value of the BPCA website, systems, processes and procedures to see where improvements or changes could be made. The review concluded with a formal report highlighting some proposed changes that will be further reviewed in 2022.

The Committee oversaw the development of two new online courses during 2021:

- Pest Awareness for Non-technical Employees
- Pest Awareness for Cleaning Operatives.

In addition, the General Pest Control online learning programme aligned with the RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management qualification syllabus. Initially developed in 2015, it was given a complete overall with all members of the Committee volunteering to review the three modules before final sign off.

BPCA successfully procured funding from the Ufi VochTech seed fund in 2021 to support the development of a 3D competency assessment. The Committee agreed to set up a working group of volunteers to drive this project.

One of the largest projects the Committee worked on in 2021 was the exploration of a qualification framework that would deliver a clear career pathway for those working in pest control. By the end of the year, the working group had approved development of onboarding and graduate entry programmes, and sufficiently developed a draft framework to be sent to the Board for consultation.

Through the committee, a working group was set up to review the BPCA Code of Conduct with the aim of ensuring that it was suitable for the business environment that we work in today.

We developed a process for quality assurance assessments that would be fit for all membership categories by looking at current compliance processes. By the end of the year, a completely new three-year membership assessment cycle had been approved and implemented.

It has been a great year for the Committee and we look forward to continuing our success in 2022.

Malcolm Stowell
Professional Standards Committee Chair
training@bpca.org.uk

MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS COMMITTEE REPORT

RESEARCH FOR INSIGHT



I'm extremely proud to have been chosen by my peers as the new chair of the M&D Committee in September 2021 and appointed as Executive Board Member for the Association.

M&D members have supported the Board to oppose the proposed Bill to ban glue boards, collaborating with servicing members to influence opinion and to protect the technicians' tool kit. Some M&D members have reached out directly to servicing members and offered glue board training free of charge to promote best practices and good stewardship to help achieve this.

The M&D Committee members voted on several strategic projects that could be delivered in 2022. The two that were the most popular were:

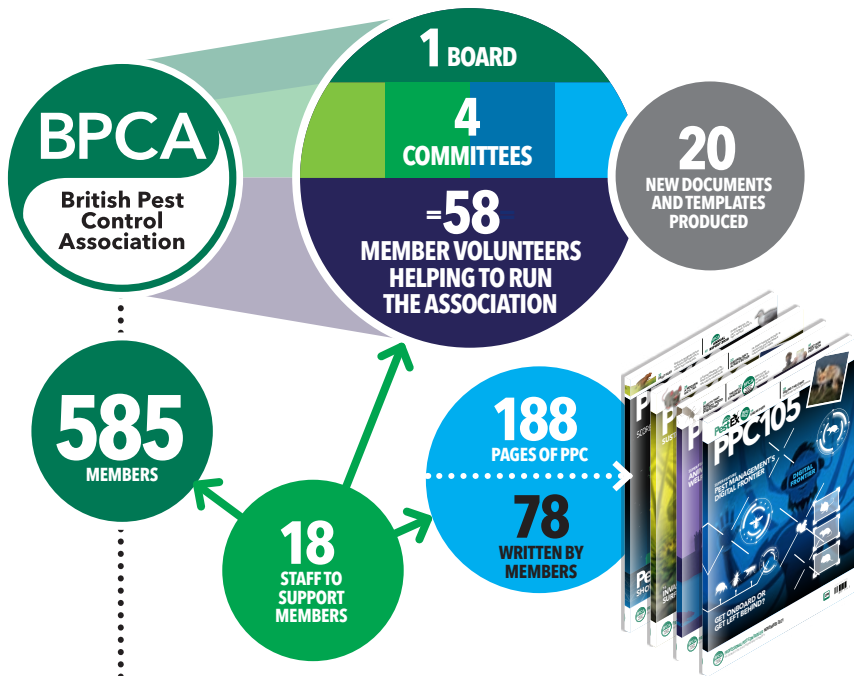
- Consider the development of a ten-year environmental plan for the sector
- Conduct market and sector research and analysis.

The Board, in turn, agreed to park the first project to 2023 and welcome the start of the second project to conduct market research into the sector. I am very excited to work with members to kick off the project in 2022 and help all members gain an even greater insight into the sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the M&D Committee member volunteers for their hard work, commitment and great passion shown for the Association in the last year, and especially the great support I have had since they elected me as chair of the M&D Committee.

Anthony O'Hare
Manufacturers and Distributors Committee Chair
membership@bpca.org.uk

2021 IN NUMBERS



Spreading the word

16,442 copies of PPC printed
 PPC Now subscribers = 14,300 (+46%)
 1.1M reached via Facebook and Twitter
 >34K Likes, shares, retweets and comments
 BPCA releases were picked up by hundreds of news agencies with a total circulation of 926M (up 486%!!)
 Website visited >2.2M times (including the new PPC Online); 527k pest advice hits

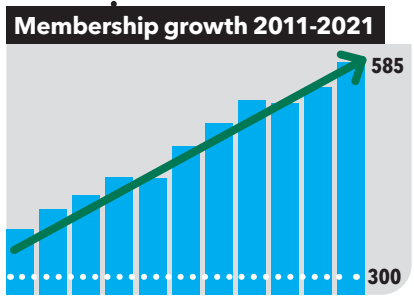
Find a pest controller

77,151 member profile views (+33%)
 68,186 unique searches

REWIND

Average feedback **90%**

BPCA put out 13 webinars and 7 digital forums - 4,428 people watched our videos live, and 66,300 rewatched them on YouTube - totalling 8,300 hours!



Technical assessments

BPCA took technical assessments back in-house in 2021.

ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED	PASS RATE	MEMBERS REQUIRING NO IMPROVEMENT
52	89%	75%

BPCA REGISTERED

- +6% 2,579 INDIVIDUALS
- +5% 384 COMPANIES
- 64,384 CPD RECORDED POINTS

Charity

PROSTATE CANCER UK

With the aid of members and the pest community at large, BPCA raised £2,677 for Prostate Cancer UK

Award-winning Association

BPCA won the Association Excellence Award for 'Best Lobbying Campaign or Advancement of a Cause During Covid-19'

The Association Excellence Awards 2021

Top ten PPC ONLINE articles

- 1 UK government confirms plans to ban rodent glue boards completely
- 2 Glue boards in England will be licenced rather than banned completely
- 3 Defra look to restrict glue traps for pest control in action plan for animal welfare
- 4 Fruit flies: Horizon 2020 project addresses major invasive pests
- 5 Girl, 11, dies in incident reportedly linked to 'pest control products'
- 6 Can rodents transmit Covid-19? A government report
- 7 HSE issues advice on Covid-19 disinfection services and warns of legal consequences
- 8 Legal teeth and rodent control update in 2021 Code of Best Practice
- 9 Natural England: gull control licence screening explained
- 10 Let's keep glue boards for professionals, says BPCA

PestExtra

The pest management show online

VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD: 1,780

CPD POINTS ISSUED: 5,319

SEMINAR SESSIONS WATCHED LIVE: 11,087

Ratings: 93% General atmosphere, 98% Quality of seminars, 99% BPCA stand, 96% Exhibitor range, 90% Ease of navigation, 98% Staff helpfulness, 87% Scavenger hunt, 91% On-demand area, 84% Networking lounge

TRAINING CALENDAR

Courses and exams

Course/exam	From (£)	Exam	Start date	Location
Level 2 Award in Pest Management (residential)	1010	✓	05-10/06/2022	Edinburgh (non-res)
			17-22/07/2022	Stafford
			11-16/09/2022	Stafford
			04-09/12/2022	Stafford
Principles of Pest Identification	95		24/05/2022	Online classroom
Bed Bug Control NOW ONLINE	95		20/04/2022	Online classroom
			28/09/2022	
Certificate in Bird Management NOW ONLINE	95	✓	23/03/2022	Online classroom
Stored Product Insects (SPIs) in Food Factory Environments	95		31/03/2022	Online classroom
			23/06/2022	
Introduction to Wildlife Management	95		13/06/2022	Online classroom
			19/10/2022	
Becoming a Field Biologist or Technical Inspector	95		30/06/2022	Online classroom
Starting and managing your own pest management business	95		04/05/2022	Online classroom
			03/08/2022	
Level 3 Award in Safe Use of Fumigants for the Management of Invertebrate Pests	780		06-10/06/2022	Stafford
Fundamentals of Insect Pests	55		19/05/2022	Online classroom
			26/10/2022	
Fundamentals of Rodent Pests	55		01/09/2022	Online classroom
			24/11/2022	
Advanced Rodent Biology	95		23/03/2022	Online classroom
			27/09/2022	
			07/12/2022	
Waste Management	95		09/03/2022	Online classroom
Steps to Leadership	190		24+31/03/2022	Online classroom

Exams only

Exam	From (£)	Start date	Location
RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management	155	29/04/2022	Stafford
		10/06/2022	Edinburgh
		22/07/2022	Stafford
		16/09/2022	Stafford
		09/12/2022	Stafford
Technical Inspector Exam	155	29/04/2022	Stafford
		10/06/2022	Edinburgh
		22/07/2022	Stafford
RSPH Level 3 Award in the Safe Use of Fumigants for the Management of Invertebrate Pests	305	16/09/2022	Stafford
		09/12/2022	Stafford
		29/04/2022	Stafford
NEW Certified Advanced Technician (CAT) in Pest Management	294	Book anytime	NOW ONLINE

Online learning

The flexible approach to pest control training, learn at your own pace at times to suit you bpca.org.uk/online-learning

	From (£)
Full Level 2 Award in Pest Management – online course	330
Using Rodenticides Safely – online course and exam	75
Foundation Certificate in Pest Management	55
Pest Awareness for Non-technical Staff	
Completing Risk Assessments PRICE DROP	
Working at Height	
Asbestos Awareness	20
Manual Handling	
Ladder Safety	
COSHH	



Enquiries and bookings

training@bpca.org.uk
01332 225 113
bpca.org.uk/training

Bulk booking discounts

We now offer discounts on bulk bookings for our Level 2 Award in Pest Management course, for both members and non-members: 0-2 licences – standard price; 3-9 licences – 20% discount; 10+ licences – 40% discount. Exam costs remain the same. Contact the training team to find out more.

Terms and conditions

All costs are members only and exclude VAT. Venue details are provisional and may change – please check the BPCA website before booking. BPCA reserves the right to cancel a programme if insufficient bookings have been received. Delegates will be offered an alternative date or a full refund of the programme fee if a programme is cancelled. BPCA will not be liable for any costs incurred by the delegates.