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GALÁPAGOS

Giant Pinzón Tortoises Returning



Photo credit: James Gibbs

Two years after conservationists successfully carried out an aerial rodenticide bait drop on the Galápagos Archipelago, the island is showing signs of recovery in the form of 10 newly hatched Pinzón tortoises. These baby giant tortoises are the first known to have survived in the wild in over 150 years.

The recent finding is a hopeful step forward in the ongoing effort to help the critically endangered species that once teetered on the edge of extinction because of a rat infestation on the island.

Rat Eradication on Pinzón

Rodents are one of the most serious threats to the endemic species of the Galápagos Is-

lands. Rats prey on the eggs and hatchlings of birds and reptiles, and threaten fauna and native flora.

The population of Giant Pinzón Tortoises was almost wiped out by invasive rodents.

Over the past 40 years, small-scale control efforts targeted rodent populations in specific regions on the islands. In 2012, Bell Laboratories manufactured and donated pelleted bait for aerial baiting, designed to attract only rats. Bell's specialized island conservation rodenticide was designed to attract rats and to rid the

Baby giant tortoises from Pinzón, not seen in over 150 years.

island of these invaders, thus saving endangered species and helping to focus a global spotlight on threatened wildlife populations. This was the first step in a planned 20 to 25-year process designed to rid the Galápagos Islands of non-native rats and mice for good.

Called the largest rat eradication in South America, the project is supported by the Galápagos National Park, California-based Island Conservation, the Charles Darwin Foundation,

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Bell transitioning to new SDS requirements

Distributors and PMPs will notice a different look to Bell's Safety Data Sheets (SDS) – if they haven't already. The arrival of the New Year means the deadline is fast approaching in which all SDS and labels must comply with the new HazCom 2012 standards. In compliance with these new standards, Bell Laboratories released new SDSs in January 2015.

In 2012, OSHA ruled to incorporate new standards based on the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). These new standards require chemical products to display easy-to-read hazard warnings on labels and SDSs. Beginning June 1, chemical manufacturers and distributors must ensure that all chemicals include labels and SDSs that comply with OSHA's updated Hazard Communication Standard (HazCom). Because rodenticides are separately regulated by USEPA these new OSHA requirements do not apply to Bell's product labels.

In accordance with the new standards, Bell's SDSs (formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets) will include associated hazards an individual might come across in handling rodenticides. While the information contained in the SDSs is mostly the same as the previous MSDSs, the new format is presented in a user-friendly, 16-section format – consistent across all Bell products.

Safety Data Sheets are vital for anyone encountering rodenticides because they provide

comprehensive information about their handling and use. Bell's new SDSs include information about the physical and chemical properties of our products and any potential associated risks. Additionally, the SDSs list environmental hazards, preventative and protective measures as well as safety precautions for handling, storing and transporting rodenticides.

As Bell customers receive new SDSs in the months ahead, it is important to prepare for the transition. It is suggested that you have a system in place for incorporating new safety data sheets. For example:

- ▶ Have a designated employee in charge of the transition to GHS
- ▶ Make sure your employees, especially those on the front lines in procurement and the loading dock (where MSDSs are likely to first enter the facility), are on the lookout for updated SDSs
- ▶ When a new safety data sheet comes in – have a system in place for comparing it to the earlier version, making note of any relevant changes
- ▶ Plan/execute training
- ▶ Update your SDS library / archive old MSDS



Distributors and PMPs will notice a different look to Bell's SDS & Label Guide.

Important HazCom DEADLINES

December 1, 2013

Employers must train employees on how to read GHS formatted labels and SDSs. Changes to labels are probably more substantial, however, employees need to understand where to find information on the SDS, especially in Section 2 where critical hazard information (Hazards Identification) is located.

June 1, 2015

Chemical manufacturers and distributors should have completed their reclassification of chemicals and be shipping GHS formatted SDSs and labels with their shipments. By this date a majority of your library should be composed of the new SDSs.

December 1, 2015

Distributors have an additional 6 months beyond the June 1, 2015 date to pass along manufacturer labels and SDSs in the older formats. However, beyond December 1, 2015, all SDSs and labels in the U.S. must adhere to HazCom 2012 guidelines.

June 1, 2016

Employers should be fully compliant with HazCom 2012. Compliance includes making any necessary updates to HazCom programs, training employees on any newly identified chemical hazards, and updating safety data sheets libraries and secondary labels.

SDSs can be downloaded from Bell's website at www.belllabs.com

For more information about HazCom standards, please visit www.osha.gov

Bell Laboratories promotes Haddad and Lynch to Regional Managers



Bell Laboratories' Sheila Haddad and Patrick Lynch were recently promoted to regional sales managers.

In their new positions, Haddad and Lynch will oversee Bell's technical sales representatives in the U.S. and Canada. Both bring extensive pest management expertise to their positions, and will help to provide the highest level of customer service to Bell customers. The organizational restructuring will better enable Bell to be more responsive to customer needs and more in tune with market dynamics.

Haddad is well known within the pest management industry, bringing with her more than 25 years of industry experience to her position as Eastern Regional Sales Manager. She joined the company in 2003 as a technical representative and more recently as regional manager for the Northeast area.

"In my new role I am looking forward to working with my team as a leader and mentor," said Haddad. "I am eager to cultivate new and existing relationships and develop new sales opportunities as part of the Bell team."

Haddad is based near Hartford, Conn.

Lynch steps into the position of Western Regional Sales Manager. Lynch gained his expertise in the rodent control industry working as a Bell technical representative for the New York and New Jersey region since 2006.

"During my nine years at Bell, I have always been impressed with our company culture and how we treat our people and customers," said Lynch. "The most exciting aspect about joining Bell's managerial team is being able to have a hand in maintaining and shaping that culture in the future."

Lynch is based near San Diego, Calif.

"Haddad and Lynch have exhibited exceptional customer focus and pest management expertise," said Mark Westover, VP- Sales and Business Development. "Their managerial skills and experience will continue to be assets for Bell Labs, their teams and the customers we all support." ■



Technician's Tips - **MOLES**

No mole management program is complete without Bell's Talpirid Mole Bait, advises Bell Technical Rep, Rich Williams. His customers in the Central territory depend on it when spring ushers in mole invasions across many regions of the U.S.

Tip 1 ▶ INSPECTION

Thoroughly inspect the property to locate damage to the turf caused by mole tunneling and/or mounds. This damage may occur from tunneling in the yard, along-tree lines, fences, etc. Also, locate any tunnels coming in from neighboring property, wooded areas, and fields.

Tip 2 ▶ ASSESSING ACTIVE TUNNELS:

While inspecting, determine if the runs are active by looking for fresh turf and soil getting pushed up. If you are not sure if a run is active, make assessment holes by using a dowel rod approximately 1 inch in diameter to poke a hole into the run. Return in 24 – 48 hours, if the mole has plugged the holes, then it is an active run.

Tip 3 ▶ BAITING MOLE TUNNELS:

Prepare to bait the active tunnel by making a new hole with a dowel rod about 1 foot away from the plugged assessment hole (do not place the bait in the assessment hole). Drop the bait through the hole and into the tunnel. Close or cover the hole, being careful not to drop dirt onto the bait worm. Make a new assessment hole near the bait and return in 5-7 days to see if the assessment hole has been re-plugged. If so, the mole should have come through the tunnel and consumed the bait.

Tip 4 ▶ BAITING MOLE MOUNDS:

Do not bait directly into mole mounds, instead bait the tunnels leading to the mounds. Find the hole where the mole is pushing up the soil, and poke a hole with the dowel rod into the tunnel about a foot away from where the mound opening is located. Place the bait completely into the tunnel and carefully seal or cover the hole.



Bell Laboratories, The Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota and private partners.

The Return of the Pinzón Tortoise

Rats have prevented Pinzón Giant Tortoises from successfully reproducing in the wild for nearly 150 years. In order to stave off extinction, conservationists intervened in the 1960s by collecting the few unhatched eggs that remained on the island. The eggs were incubated, hatched and raised until they reached a “rodent-proof” size. Once the tortoises reached an age that they could fend for themselves, conservationists released the young tortoises back on the Pinzón islands.

After decades of conservation efforts, the discovery of 10 hatched tortoises in December brings a promise of a successful elimination effort of invasive rodents. In a post on the Galápagos Conservancy blog, James Gibbs, an environmental scientist at State University of New York, details an encounter with the tortoises on a recent trip to Pinzón.

In his account, Gibbs estimates roughly 500 saddleback tortoises are now living on the island, a tripling of the population from six decades ago. While his team only found 10 hatchlings, Gibbs noted that the discovery might be just the tip of the iceberg of what is to come.

Continued below



Photo: Island Conservation

The 2012 Galápagos aerial bait project dispersed 20 tons of Bell’s pelleted bait onto the islands below.



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“This new bunch of “little guys” is one of the important results of the rat eradication campaign,” notes Gibbs. “Tangible proof that with dedication, hard work, support, and heart, conservation efforts can effect positive change.”

While Gibbs and others were primarily looking for tortoises, they also looked hard for signs of invasive species. “We looked very hard for signs of rodents,” says Gibbs. “But we didn’t find droppings or any other sign of rodent activity.”

These results point to a common sentiment amongst conservationists. The growing tortoise population is showing an island in recovery, a reward and validation for the hard work of the Galápagos National Park Service and its collaborators - including Bell. ■