

Did You Know?

What does Tier 1 mean?

In order to receive this distinction from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a bait station must pass EPA-established protocols that demonstrate tamper-resistance to both children and dogs, as well as possess performance features for weather resistance.

What are the tamper-resistance testing for children requirements?

Testing protocol requires a testing panel comprised of a minimum of 50 children aged 42 to 51 months being unable to gain access to any station within 10 minutes of observation.

How many dogs did you test your station on and for how long?

A minimum of 6 dogs are required to establish Tier 1 testing compliance. Dogs must be monitored for a minimum of 2 hours.

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THE BELL REPORT

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THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF BAIT STATION SECURITY

Summer Fun and Teamwork

The International Sales Managers met for their annual summer sales meeting this June in Madison, Wisconsin. Based all over the world, the team flew in from locations such as Costa Rica, Australia, and France to meet for a week of discussions of topics like territory updates and new project opportunities. Despite the week being organized into multiple days of meetings, the Bell team made sure to make time for fun. As pictured, the Bell International team enjoying a lunch break aboard the Betty Lou Cruise boat for a tour of Madison's Lake Mendota. ■



Photo credit: South Georgia Heritage Trust

SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND DECLARED *Rodent Free!*

The world's largest island rat eradication project is officially a success! As of May 2018, South Georgia Island has been declared rat-free after centuries of devastation to the island and its habitat.

An arduous undertaking would describe this project perfectly. In February 2011, the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT), a Scottish registered charity, began work on this project with the promise of relief from rats on part or all of South Georgia Island and to restore one of the most important and spectacular seabird islands in the world.

Bell Laboratories was thrilled to be called-on to help develop and manufacture a bait for the world's largest rat eradication project. Once the brodifacoum pelleted bait was formulated, the project was split into three phases, with the first phase beginning in 2011. In preparation for Phase I, Bell manufactured 2,558 bags of bait totaling nearly 128,000 lbs. In the fall of 2011, Bell shipped these bags of bait on a three-month journey from Madison to South Georgia Island. Tony Martin, project director, shared, "Following a very long sea journey, the bait arrived at South Georgia in perfect condi-

tion. A testament to the care with which it was manufactured and packaged in Wisconsin." When the bait arrived on South Georgia Island, the project staff spread 58 tons of bait over 49 sq. mi. (128 sq km).

Phase II occurred in 2013 and proved to be the most difficult phase for the project staff. The team endured snow, winds and temperatures of minus 14°C (6°F) to bait another 226 sq. mi. (580 sq km) of the island with 200 tons of bait across a rugged, glacial landscape. Often, the flight crew flew in these frigid temperatures at 1,500 feet without a door so they

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Photo credit: Oli Prince

could watch the bait drop—even the spreader bucket controls froze up!

With hopeful signs of recovery appearing prior to Phase III, the final push to rid South Georgia Island of rodents was planned for early 2015. A team of 18 worked over the brief, three month sub-Antarctic summer to eradicate rodents from the remaining one-third of the island, an area of 140 sq. miles (364 sq km).

Upon completion of Phase III, the team monitored the island for two years—hopeful that there would be no signs of rodents so the island could officially be declared rat-free. Part of the team included three dogs, Will, Ahu and Wai, who, along with two experienced dog handlers, walked across nearly 1,550 miles (2,500 km) in often extreme weather looking for any traces of rats after the bait application.

Fast forward to May 2018, when it was announced that the remote island of South Georgia is now clear of rats that had once devastated its wildlife for nearly 250 years. Birds nesting on the ground or in burrows, whose eggs and chicks were frequently preyed on by rats, are already benefiting from the success of this project, according to the SGHT. The SGHT chief executive officer, Alison Neil, recently shared in an interview with BBC, “There are starting to be huge increases in numbers of certain birds.

Especially, some of the most effected ones like the South Georgia pipit, the island’s songbird, and Pintail duck. Sights and sounds that would have been unthinkable before our work began.” ■



“ Following a very long sea journey, the bait arrived at South Georgia in perfect condition. A testament to the care with which it was manufactured and packaged in Wisconsin. ”

- Tony Martin, project director



Above: The South Georgia Pipit, the island’s songbird. Photo credit: Ingo Arndt

Below: Flock of South Georgia Pintails. Photo credit: Oli Prince



FINAL®
ALL-WEATHER BLOX™

Bell’s Latin American territory is introducing a new product this August, FINAL All-Weather 10 gram BLOX. The bait will be launched in Peru as the first anticoagulant bait available in that region. Andrés, Bell’s Latin American Business Manager, stated “Our rodenticide market has special needs and requirements – one of these is different bait block size options. By focusing on the smaller block size, Bell is offering PCOs a reliable option in our FINAL 10 gram BLOX.”

The Latin American team is also in the process of registering FINAL 10 gram BLOX for the crop segment in Costa Rica, focusing on sugarcane and pineapple crops. “We have

Above: Pineapple crop fields in Costa Rica.

big expectations for FINAL in our territory,” said Andrés.

FINAL contains the powerful active ingredient Brodifacoum, Bell’s strongest, single feeding anticoagulant. This highly weatherable block bait is effective in controlling both rats and mice but works especially well to clean out persistent mouse infestations. With its distinctive cog-like shape and food-grade ingredients, FINAL offers a flavor rats and mice can’t resist – making it the bait of choice in the pest control industry. ■



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