

## Moles vs. Voles continued from front page

### Personalizing your Pest Management Program

#### Voles

- Practice exclusion at the ground level to keep voles out of buildings
- Remove any excessive landscaping and weeds that may be providing abundant food or cover
- Both traps and rodenticide will be required, due to their quick reproduction cycles
- Place Traps & bait stations near shrubbery, along runways, and near burrow openings
- Use ZP Rodent Bait. Let it fall between blades of grass, and do not apply in less than 30 day intervals
- P.C.Q® Pro pellets are great for meadow & pine voles
- Contrace® Blox or Contrace® Soft bait can be

used for voles, when bait is placed in a tamper resistant bait station

#### Moles

- Focus your attention around trees, landscaping, and flower beds
- Pay special attention to fence-lines and driveways, this is where you might find mole ‘super-highways’, which are frequently traveled by more than one mole
- Poke holes into mole runways, if the holes are plugged when you return the next day, it is an active mole runway
- Use Talpirid® mole bait and traps



Vole burrow



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# MOLES VS VOLES



The first step to solving a pest problem is identifying the culprit—this can be the difference between a pest management program that works, and one that fails. To the untrained eye, damage from moles vs. voles can look nearly indistinguishable. Both moles and voles spend most of their time underground, and both can seriously damage a yard or landscape. Understanding the following differences between moles and voles will be key in solving your pest problem.

#### Moles vs Voles: Burrows, Runways, and Mounds

Moles and voles traverse a landscape very differently, but both leave evidence of where they travel, which we call runways. While

voles navigate above ground, moles only tunnel below the surface. You can identify a vole runway by the well-defined, roughly 2 inch wide, above-ground path. Vole runways are created as they scurry across the surface of the grass between burrows and their food sources. Moles, on the other hand, push dirt upwards as they dig tunnels beneath the surface, creating wide paths that make the surface of the landscape appear slightly elevated. While a vole burrow has clearly defined entrance and exit holes, a mole will create volcano shaped mounds of loose dirt, caused by the mole pushing dirt out of their tunnel.

#### Moles vs Voles: Physical and Behavioral Characteristics

Moles and voles differ from each other greatly when it comes to physical appearance. Voles have sharp incisor teeth, blunt noses, sturdy round bodies, short tails, thick fur, small eyes, and small ears—their physical features are relatively similar to those of most mice; this is not true for moles. Moles have tiny eyes, long noses, large shovel like feet with large claws, and thick fur. Moles are virtually blind, but are physically optimized for spending all of their time underground, digging runways while hunting worms and grubs in the dark. Voles spend comparatively more time above ground than moles, and their sharp incisor teeth are necessary for their diet of seeds, roots, and other vegetation.

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# Success on Rat Island

Hawadax Island, formerly known as “Rat Island” due to the large invasive rat population, was one of Bell’s first large and successful island conservation projects. In 2008, Bell supplied over 100,000 lbs. of bait to assist Island Conservation in ridding the island of invasive Rats. After 11 years of being rodent-free, the seabirds have returned and are again consuming the seashore invertebrates. This allowed for the recovery of the marine community, followed by a full recovery of the island ecosystem. ■



Helicopter distributes Bell’s specialized bait over Rat Island



View above Rat Island

## MOLES

- Damage landscapes and gardens
- Don’t enter buildings
- Won’t leave burrows unless absolutely necessary
- Moles are insectivores
- Consume food equivalent to 80%-100% of their own body weight each day



Mole burrow

## VOLES

- Damage plants, fruit trees, and landscapes
- Occasionally enter buildings
- Only leave burrows for 10 minutes at a time
- Voles are rodents

# Anytime Pest Elimination Finds Success with **Protecta EVO TUNNEL™**

Any pest management professional knows that catching that alpha rat can be a tough feat. Alphas are tough, smart, and reign supreme in the rodent hierarchy. Their toughness and intelligence are the reason why they are still alive, and the reason they are so hard to eliminate. When Greg Schoch, president of Anytime Pest Elimination in Baytown, Texas was faced with the task of eliminating an alpha rat at an account, he knew he had his work cut out for him. The rats at this account were particularly neophobic, jumping and running around the snap traps that were placed along their run lines. It was not until they added the EVO Tunnel to their arsenal, that they were able to eliminate the alpha that was causing them problems.

“This account had one rat that we could not catch for some time. When the EVO Tunnels came out, we took one to that account to try it out. The rat ran

into the Tunnel almost instantly. It must have thought it was a 5 Star hotel—it was simply amazing. We also sell them at our DIY store as an add-on service to some of our customers, and they simply love them. They are truly the best of the best,” said Greg Schoch, President of Anytime Pest Elimination.

In addition to the versatility of the Tunnel, Schoch also comments on its practicality. Says Schoch: “The EVO Tunnel is the most economical way to protect your snap traps and glue boards from children and pets without requiring a tamper resistant bait station. It’s a great product that you could use over and over again and could last for years.” ■



Protecta EVO Tunnels are being used all around the country, in a variety of ways



SPOTLIGHT ON **iQ**

# TRAPPER® 24/7 **iQ**

Bell's Trapper 24/7 iQ is the most affordable way to incorporate multiple catch traps with rodent sensing technology into your service plan. Easy to install, with all of the hardware fully integrated, simply place devices at the account. When the technician conducts the next service, they will know right away which traps have rodent activity, saving time and limiting disturbances at the account. Capturing this data enables PMPs to answer the question of why rodent activity is spiking in certain places, at certain times.

Talk to your Bell sales representative to learn more or visit [www.BellSensing.com](http://www.BellSensing.com).



**NEVER CHECK AN EMPTY TRAP AGAIN**



Trapper 24/7 traps are sleek and durable, and the base and top are made out of a strong polycarbonate material that holds up to active environments and won't rust.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Unlike other traps, Trapper 24/7 iQ has a sleek lid that slides on and off with ease.

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# CONTRAC® California

**BROMETHALIN BLOX**

Contrac California Bromethalin Blox, now registered & available for purchase in California



## The Pest Posse Women in Pest Control

2021 Edition: With Sara Knilans

Every March for the past four years The Pest Posse, based in Santa Clara, California, has done a weekly YouTube series focusing on the women that make up variety of positions within the pest control industry.

As part of their 2021 Women in Pest Control series, The Pest Posse recog-

nized one of our very own: Sara Knilans, Midwest Region Manager. In her interview with the Pest Posse team, Sara talks about how she got into the pest control industry and what makes her stay. According to Sara, “the best day for me is being out in the field, doing inspections, proving myself, to myself and others,

learning and helping solve a problem.”

To see the full interview with The Pest Posse team, please visit Bell Laboratories on LinkedIn or Facebook. ■

