



Spring Town Meeting
May 4, 2026

Town of Winchester
MaryEllen Marshall, CMC
Winchester Town Clerk

Winchester Clerk's Office
71 Mt. Vernon Street
Winchester, MA 01890
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ARTICLE 41: **VOTED**, to amend the Code of Bylaws by adding Chapter 27. Said Chapter 27 is to eliminate the use of all Anticoagulant Rodenticides (ARs) including first and second generation ARs.

Winchester Code of Bylaws Chapter 27

Section 27-1: Definitions

Section 27-2: Use of Anticoagulant Rodenticides

Section 27-3: Effective date

Section 27-1: Definitions

RODENTICIDES:

A subclass of pesticides, defined under the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act MGL Ch. 132B as substances or mixtures of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate rodents that are declared to be pests by the Massachusetts pesticide board.

ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES (ARs):

A type of poison used to kill rodents by preventing their blood from clotting. It works by interfering with the vitamin K cycle, which is essential for blood coagulation. This leads to internal bleeding and eventually death in rodents.

FIRST-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES (FGARs):

Rodenticides developed to control rodents that require multiple feedings over several days for the poison to accumulate to a lethal level. These products include but are not limited to warfarin, diphacinone, chlorophacinone, and coumatetralyl. They break down more quickly; therefore, there is less chance of secondary poisoning of non-targeted species.

SECOND-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES (SGARs):

Rodenticides developed to control rodents that are resistant to First-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides and contain compounds that interfere with blood clotting, causing death from excessive bleeding and remaining in animal tissues for an extended period due to long half-lives* (in brodifacoum, up to 330 days), increasing the risk of secondary poisoning of non-targeted species and damage to the environment. These products currently include, but are not limited to, those containing brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, or difethialone.

*The time required for a quantity (of substance) to reduce to half of its initial value.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM):

A sustainable approach to pest management that uses a combination of methods to minimize pest populations and damage. The focus is directed toward preventing pest problems through: 1) biological controls (natural predators, such as raptors and mammals); 2) environmental modifications ("starving" rodents/pests using proper waste management and reducing access to

food products); 3) exclusion of physical access (sealing access points, and reducing vegetation/debris); and 4) targeting of rodents, using non-chemical and chemical controls (snap traps, rodent contraceptives, CO2 traps, electric traps, etc., and as a last resort, chemical controls). IPM seeks to minimize health and environmental risks.

Section 27-2: Use of Anticoagulant Rodenticides

A. Eliminate the use of Anticoagulant Rodenticides (ARs) on all Town-owned properties, including buildings, grounds, parks, open spaces, and public rights of way, to be adhered to by all employees of the Town of Winchester, as well as third-party vendors and contractors providing services at Town-owned property.

B. The Board of Health or its agents may issue emergency waivers for the use of ARs on Town-owned property. Such waivers shall be restricted in time and location and shall only be granted after a well-documented request detailing a significant rodent infestation of public health consequence. Any waivers granted under this section shall be published on the Town's website.

Section 27-3: Effective Date

The effective date of this bylaw per MGL Ch. 40 Sec. 32 is after the approval by the Attorney General and the completion of its publication and posting requirements.

I certify that the foregoing is a true account of the action taken under Article 41 of the Spring Town Meeting on May 4, 2026.

**Motion Carried Voice Vote
2/3 Vote Declared by Moderator**

MaryEllen Marshall. CMC
Winchester Town Clerk