

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW REGARDING OUR SERVICE

### **GROUND SQUIRRELS:**

#### **Information:**

The California ground squirrel, *Spermophilus beecheyi*, is one of the most troublesome pests to homeowners, gardeners, farmers and ranchers. While ground squirrels are similar in appearance to tree squirrels and may climb trees. When frightened they will always retreat to a burrow, whereas tree squirrels will climb a tree or high structure and never use a burrow. Ground squirrels live in a burrow system where they sleep, rest, rear young, store food, and avoid danger. They are diurnal, which means they are active during the day. They are most active during mid-morning and late afternoon

Ground squirrels are primarily vegetarians and they usually forage close to their burrows. Their home range typically is within a 75-yard radius of their burrow. Ground squirrels damage many food-bearing and ornamental plants. Particularly vulnerable are nut and fruit trees. Ground squirrels will enter gardens and devour vegetables, young shrubs, vines, and trees by gnawing bark, girdling trunks, eating twigs and leaves, and burrowing around roots. Ground squirrels will gnaw on plastic sprinkler heads and irrigation lines

Burrowing can be quite destructive. Burrows and mounds make it difficult to mow, and they present hazards to people, machinery, and livestock. Burrows around trees and shrubs can damage and desiccate roots, and sometimes topple trees. Burrows beneath buildings and other structures sometimes necessitate repair

Ground squirrels can harbor diseases harmful to humans, particularly when squirrel populations are dense. A major concern is bubonic plague transmitted to humans by fleas carried on the squirrels.

### **POCKET GOPHERS:**

#### **Information:**

Pocket gophers (*Thomomys* spp.) are burrowing rodents that get their name from the fur-lined external cheek pouches, or pockets, that they use for carrying food and nesting materials. They are well equipped for a digging, tunneling lifestyle with powerfully built forequarters, large-clawed front paws, fine short fur that doesn't cake in wet soils, small eyes and small external ears, and highly sensitive facial whiskers to assist movements in the dark. An unusual adaptation is the gopher's lips, which can be closed behind the four large incisor teeth to keep dirt out of its mouth when it is using its teeth for digging.

Pocket gophers live in a burrow system that can cover an area of 200 to 2,000 square feet. The burrows are about 2.5 to 3.5 inches in diameter; feeding burrows are usually 6 to 12 inches below ground, whereas the nest and food storage chamber may be as deep as 6 feet. Gophers seal the openings to the burrow system with earthen plugs. Gophers do not hibernate and may be active at any hour of the day. Gophers usually live alone within their burrow system, except for females with young or when breeding, and may occur in densities of up to 16 to 20 per acre

Tunneling can be quite destructive. Mounds and tunnels make it difficult to mow, and they present hazards to people and machinery. Tunnels and burrows around trees and shrubs can damage and desiccate roots, and sometimes topple trees. Burrows beneath buildings and other structures sometimes necessitate repair.

#### **THE RODENATOR® PEST EXTERMINATION SYSTEM:**

- The procedure used to eliminate these tunneling pests requires that target animal be inside their tunnel or burrow at the time of treatment. The process involves the use of propane and oxygen applied inside the tunnel for about a minute, then the application device ignites the mixture inside the tunnel, creating an underground concussion that causes immediate death to the rodent and the collapse of the tunnel system.

**This method is humane to the target animal and the process is safe  
as there are no pesticides or poisons used**

- After treatment, any mounds are leveled and marked for re-inspection at a later date. This is done to confirm if the target was eliminated at the time of treatment. If there are fresh mounds, re-treatment will continue until activity ceases at that location.

## PRIOR TO THE START OF SERVICE

### - CAUTIONS AND WARNINGS -

THE PROCESS WE USE IS A SAFE AND HUMANE METHOD FOR ELIMINATING BURROWING RODENTS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND TO PROVIDE BETTER AWARENESS TO ALL CONCERNED, THE FOLLOWING CAUTIONS AND WARNING MUST BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO THE START OF SERVICE:

- ❑ **At least 48 hours prior to treatment**, please notify your neighbors that we will be treating with a device that will may create loud sounds. These sounds range from a “pop” to a loud “boom”. This is caused from the oxygen gasses igniting and expanding very rapidly inside the burrow. The resulting loud report is also the underground concussion that kills the rodent.
- ❑ **Nuisance Wildlife Control will notify local law enforcement** of the treatment as to preempt any concerns or telephone calls from your neighbors to law enforcement.
- ❑ **Please keep all persons at least 75 feet away** from the technician when treatment is in process. Keep all children and pets indoors.
- ❑ **This process may cause horses to become agitated**. Take necessary precautions to move animals at least 100 feet away from the treatment area. Cattle, goats, and fowl do not seem to be effected by the process.
- ❑ **After treatment**, the targeted burrows will be either flagged or marked with a colored chalk. These areas should not be disturbed until a re-inspection is done to assure that the target pest has been eliminated.

**WE ENCOURAGE YOUR OR ANY OF YOUR NEIGHBORS TO CALL US FOR ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING OUR PEST ELIMINATION PROCESS.**

**THANK YOU!**