

Exceptions to Vertebrate Pest Conference Report

In reference to the review in the October-December 1982 issue of the *Journal* [3(4):346-348, 1982) concerning the 10th Vertebrate Pest Conference, I take exception to Natasha Atkins' remarks concerning my own presentation. Her statement that "All owls, however, showed residue of the chemical in all tissue samples that were analyzed" (p. 348) is incorrect. Only 1 of 6 barn owls analyzed by an independent laboratory showed a brodifacoum residue, and that at only trace levels. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives who conducted this study concluded in the study report that brodifacoum was *not* the cause of death in this bird since it was found near a power line with a singed body, obviously having died from electrocution. They further felt that our rodenticide did not cause any barn owl mortality during this study and that the potential for barn owl mortality as a result of Talon rodenticide baiting for rats and mice around farmsteads appears to be low. If we had found the extensive residues as suggested by your reviewer, it is unlikely that we would have proceeded with the registration of this product.

In the original announcement and request for papers which I had wanted published in the *Journal*, I called for papers dealing with the humane aspects of vertebrate pest research. The *Journal's* reply to me in December 1981, that the staff had "overlooked" the pertinent parts of this correspondence, is not a very strong defense for any subsequent complaint that humane and animal advocates were unrepresented in our conference program.

I have never felt, as Ms. Atkins apparently does, that the issues involving vertebrate pest control versus environment and humane aspects are quite so polarized. ICI has always held humane and environmental aspects a main concern in our own vertebrate pest research

and in development of our products and I certainly support The HSUS in much of its activities. If there are other viable control options available to those of us involved in vertebrate pest control which are more humane or of less environmental hazard, we certainly need to be made aware of them. It is clear that more dialogue between individuals on both "sides" will be of benefit. I have presented an opportunity for humane concerns to be made to my associates. May I ask you and your readers to offer us, the vertebrate pest control researchers, equal consideration and courtesy at upcoming environmental or animal welfare-oriented meetings?

Thank you for your assistance.

Dale Kaukeinen
Technical Representative
IC/ Americas, Inc.
Goldsboro, NC 27530

