



SCIL
Social Compassion
in Legislation

AB 724 (Zbur) – Glue Trap Prohibition Act

Summary:

AB 724– the Glue Trap Prohibition Act – would protect animals and people by prohibiting the use, sale, and distribution of glue traps, which cause animals unnecessary suffering and create public health hazards.

Background:

Adhesive-based traps, also known as glue traps or glue boards, are devices that use an adhesive substance to ensnare rodents or other small animals. When an animal walks over the trap, their bodies stick to the surface and they are trapped in place. The trapped animals experience panic and pain as they try to free themselves, sometimes resulting in ripped skin or broken bones. Trapped animals make loud noises and are visibly in pain while they struggle. People who purchase glue traps are often unaware of the pain and suffering these traps inflict until after they are used. Oftentimes users of glue traps are horrified by the sight and sound of a trapped animal and want to release it, which is very difficult. After several days, the animal will die from starvation, dehydration, or suffocation.

Glue traps can unintentionally trap and injure native wildlife such as songbirds, raptors, and lizards, as well as companion animals such as kittens. Larger animals, like adult cats, can also be injured by the adhesive and require veterinary care. Glue traps are counterproductive to sustainable rodent control because they hurt or kill raptors and other predators that help regulate rodent populations throughout California.

Glue traps can also harm human health. Animals caught in a glue trap will often urinate or defecate. If the animal carries hantavirus, their waste is contaminated with the virus, which can be released into the air. Humans in proximity can contract the virus and suffer damage to their lungs and kidneys. The CDC recommends avoiding glue traps because of this risk.

The painful, prolonged, and infectious deaths that animals suffer due to glue traps are unnecessary given humane and effective options for rodent control are readily available. Exclusion and sanitation are the most sustainable long-term rodent control solutions, and fertility control products are also widely available and proven to be effective.

Glue traps are banned in England, Iceland, Ireland, and New Zealand. Two California cities have adopted ordinances to ban the use and sale of adhesive-based traps, with West Hollywood as the first city in the United States to do so. The City of Ojai later followed suit. Major retailers like Target, CVS, Rite Aid, and Walgreens have already stopped selling the traps. New Hampshire introduced a bipartisan backed ban in 2025.

With a statewide ban, California would lead the nation on ending this cruel form of rodent control. Due to the size of California's economy, a statewide ban could make the traps less available throughout the country. It will provide consistency for retailers and consumers throughout California and increase awareness of safe and effective rodent control options.

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- AB 724
 - prohibits the sale, use, or production of adhesive-based traps; and,
 - imposes a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 on anyone who sells, uses, or produces adhesive-based traps
 - allows a person to commence a suit to enjoin the violation of the prohibition on adhesive-based traps, subject to certain conditions.

Support:

Center for Biological Diversity (sponsor)
Social Compassion in Legislation (sponsor)