

Field Guide to Documenting Wildlife Poisonings at Rozol-treated Black-tailed Prairie Dog Colonies

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Exposure

- ❖ Rozol Prairie Dog Bait (Rozol).
- ❖ For controlling black-tailed prairie dogs (BTPDs), *Cynomys ludovicianus*.
- ❖ First generation anticoagulant rodenticide.
- ❖ 0.005 % chlorophacinone, active ingredient.
- ❖ Registered for use in: CO, KS, MT, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, WY.
- ❖ Rozol application allowed between October 1 –March 15 the following year.



Rozol is wheat seeds treated with chlorophacinone.



Rozol label states that it must be applied 6" into the burrow. But spillage can result in nontarget wildlife exposure.



Even when applied according to label, the burrow's entrance angle can keep Rozol close to the surface, enabling nontarget wildlife exposure.

Granivorous birds are attracted to Rozol



For example: Horned lark, *Eremophila alpestris*, droppings (grey-white colored) in the burrow entrance.



Raptors selectively feed in poisoned BTPD colonies over untreated colonies.

Ferruginous hawks, *Buteo regalis*, hunting at Rozol-treated BTPD colonies.



Dead and dying BTPDs and other wildlife found above ground are easy prey and lead to secondary poisoning of raptors.

- ❖ Prolonged severe weather after Rozol application that forces BTPDs to remain underground can reduce above ground BTPD activity and limit their availability as prey.
- ❖ Milder weather conditions allow poisoned BTPDs to be active above ground and be available as prey.

Effects

- ❖ Rozol disrupts the blood clotting mechanism, leading to hemorrhaging and death.
- ❖ Multiple feedings over several days are generally required to manifest adverse effects.
- ❖ Prolonged clotting time can occur within 48 hours post exposure.
- ❖ Mortality may occur ≥ 1 week post exposure.
- ❖ Under moderate weather conditions, signs of exposure and adverse effects to BTPDs and nontarget wildlife can be observed for at least 29 days post Rozol application.



Rozol-colored horned lark droppings near a BTPD burrow entrance, indicating Rozol exposure to a granivorous bird.



Dropping from an unidentified Rozol-exposed bird.



Rozol-colored BTPD droppings, indicating Rozol exposure.



Blood stains at a burrow entrance, indicative of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning



Western meadowlark, *Sturnella neglecta*, found in BTPD colony on day 25 post Rozol application.



Western meadowlark displaying hemorrhaging, indicative of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning.



Moribund BTPD above ground with a bloody rear end, an indication of anticoagulant rodenticide exposure.



Dead BTPDs above ground are usually found close to the burrow entrances.

Nontarget mortalities can occur in densely vegetated areas near BTPD colonies, making them difficult to document. Mortalities observed after day 5 post Rozol application.



Thirteen-lined ground squirrel, *Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*.



Cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus* sp.

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