

37427

Adopt the Portland Parks and Recreation Integrated Pest Management policy to prohibit the use of Avitrol

If you wish to speak to Council, please print your name, address and email

Name (PRINT)	Address and Zip Code (Optional)	Email (Optional)
✓ Maggie		
✓ Tara Cornelisse		



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

37427-

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June 5, 2019

Portland City Council

Re: Testimony in Support of the Proposed Avicide Prohibition Resolution

Good morning! My name is Stephanie Boyles Griffin and I serve as the Senior Scientist in the Wildlife Protection Department at the Humane Society of the United States. I also serve as the Science & Policy Director for the Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control which serves as the world's premier clearing house and scientific resource center on the subject. In 2011, I was appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley to serve as a Commissioner on the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission.

I've been working in the field of human-wildlife conflict resolution for over 20 years and in that time, have worked with federal and state agencies, non-governmental agencies, municipalities, corporations, and communities to develop and implement humane, sustainable wildlife management policies and programs.

For example, from 2004 to 2010, I worked with the Virginia Department of Transportation to explore effective, cost-beneficial approaches to resolving conflicts with beavers along roadways in Virginia, and today, me and a team of my colleagues at the HSUS are working with the Bureau of Land Management to conducting a study on the use of fertility control vaccines to manage a wild burro population in Arizona.

On behalf of the HSUS and our Portland, Oregon members and constituents, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and express our ***strong*** support for the proposed resolution to adopt the Portland Parks and Recreation Integrated Pest Management policy that prohibits the use of Avitrol and other avicides on City-owned property and infrastructure.



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Avitrol is a restricted-use toxic chemical used to kill pigeons and other birds. Promoted as a “flock frightening agent” or “repellent”, it is in fact a nervous system poison that can indiscriminately kill any bird and any mammal that consumes it- including livestock and companion animals. Birds who consume it suffer convulsions and often die slow painful deaths. It is not only traumatic for the birds to die this way, but also for people—especially children—who witness or try to help the dying birds when found in public spaces. Grisly events have been reported by our constituents and covered by news media over the many years this avicide has been in use.

Users claim that the distressed behavior of poisoned birds frightens other flock members away. Yet any “frightening” effect of Avitrol on surviving birds is short-lived, because birds remaining in the area return quickly and reproduce. That’s why killing birds, by any means, isn’t just cruel; it fails to address the root cause of the problem, leading to an endless cycle of unnecessary killing.

When impacts are being experienced from birds aggregating in areas due to attractants and/or accessible nesting and loafing sites, we encourage cities to implement humane integrated approaches to resolving conflicts that rely on effective, nonlethal methods to mitigate impacts and manage bird populations. For example, many of the conflicts with birds can be tied to feeding, so we support efforts by cities to curb the intentional and unintentional feeding of birds by educating the public and proactively removing food attractants.

We also recommend using the wide variety of devices available to permanently prevent birds from roosting and nesting on structures. Our many decades of work on conflict resolution with communities across the U.S. demonstrates to us that these kinds of integrated and comprehensive



approaches to managing issues with birds and other wildlife are the most successful in providing long-term resolution and preventing unnecessary killing of both target birds and non-target animals.

Finally, we support the use of fertility control methods, like the product Ovocontrol, to stabilize and reduce the size of flocks over time. OvoControl is a bird contraception that comes in the form of a kibble-type food, which causes birds who eat it regularly to lay eggs that fail to develop. Combined with exclusion and other humane measures to discourage roosting and nesting, OvoControl effectively reduces hatching rates in birds, thereby limiting flock sizes and diminishing problems associated with large numbers of birds.

For these reasons, we strongly support the proposed resolution and applaud the city of Portland for its leadership in establishing a humane and compassionate standard for mitigating conflicts with birds that we hope corporations, businesses, and private property owners in and around Portland will soon follow. Avitrol has been banned in Great Britain and two cities in Canada have also banned it – Red Deer and Halifax. It's also restricted in New York and banned in New York City, San Francisco, Fort Collins and Boulder, Colorado.

We are thrilled that the city of Portland will now serve as a *trailblazer* for the development and implementation of humane and effective bird management policies and hope to see these policies replicated in other major cities and towns in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and beyond!

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed resolution this morning. At this time, I'll be happy to address any questions you may have.



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OF THE UNITED STATES

37427-

Stephanie Boyles Griffin, M.S.
Senior Scientist, Wildlife Protection Department
The Humane Society of the United States

June 5, 2019

To: Portland City Council

From: Lisa Frisch, Downtown Retail Program Director, Portland Business Alliance

Re: Integrated Pest Management Plan to Protect Crows and Other Birds

Good morning, Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners. My name is Lisa Frisch and I am the Downtown Retail Program Director for the Portland Business Alliance and Downtown Clean and Safe. I am here today to provide information on city approved methods we have employed to minimize nuisance issues related to crows in the downtown area.

In 2015, in our annual Business Census and Survey data collection we were surprised to note that many of our respondents felt that downtown was not as clean as it was in the past. As you know, Clean and Safe spends over \$1 Million a year with a contract with Central City Concern to provide janitorial services to downtown Portland. We hadn't noticed a huge difference in the amount of litter we were picking up. But we noticed that the crow population downtown was booming, something that we hadn't previously seen. In some high crow population areas, street, sidewalks, furnishing were carpet bombed with bird droppings.

Our cleaning staff power washes every sidewalk in the Clean and Safe district twice a year, but we started to powerwash every night in the high crow areas. Two issues presented, we power wash overnight so as to not disturb pedestrian sidewalk activity during the day but the crows dirty the sidewalks around 7 am in the morning. Additionally, crows were causing issues in the cold weather months and we cannot powerwash sidewalks in any periods of freezing temperatures as that would create icy conditions.

In late 2015, Portland Mall Management Inc. partnered with Clean and Safe to contract with a company that provided a Zamboni like sidewalk scrubber that we dubbed the Poopmaster 6000. The Poopmaster 6000 cleaned the sidewalk but was a slow process, very limited in scope and a very expensive machine to rent-\$30,000 for one season. The Poopmaster made a return appearance in late 2016 but it was at that time that we sought a more sustainable solution.

We have worked with Integrated Avian Solutions since 2017 to help direct the crow population from high pedestrian areas to green spaces where they might have a more enjoyable experience. Integrated Avian Solutions employs falconry to manage nuisance bird problems by allowing a raptor to fly near murders of crows. The presence of the raptor makes the birds roost elsewhere, there are no sounds employed, there is no contact between the birds. We just wrapped up our third year of the program and you may have noticed that bird droppings have diminished, while Waterfront Park is a new haven for crows at night.

We want to thank the City of Portland for partnering with us on these innovative solutions. Through this journey, we never employed any Avicide or any tactics that were not supported by the City or the Audubon Society. We are always looking for innovative solutions to issues that crop up in downtown Portland and hope to act as a model for programs at other Enhanced Service Districts. We are proud to show successful results and will be rolling out the next phase of our crow abatement program in October 2019.

Lisa Frisch, Retail Program Director

Portland Business Alliance, 200 SW Market St., Ste. 150, Portland, OR 97201

p: 503-552-6740, lfrisch@portlandalliance.com

Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce

McClymont, Keelan

From: Lynn Herring <lynnhe@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 9:48 PM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Kudos for banning Avitrol and other bird poisons!

Nick Fish, Commissioner, City Council of Portland Oregon

Dear Commissioner Fish,

Regarding the hearing on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 to address a Resolution to ban the use of Avitrol and other bird poisons on Portland city property, please include the comments below in the official record.

Sincerely,
 Lynn Herring
 lynnhe@outlook.com

From: Lynn Herring <lynnhe@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 9:38 PM
To: nick@portlandoregon.gov; amanda@portlandoregon.gov; JoAnn@portlandoregon.gov; Chloe@portlandoregon.gov; MayorWheeler@portlandoregon.gov
Subject: Kudos for banning Avitrol and other bird poisons!

Nick Fish, Commissioner
 Portland City Council
 Portland, Oregon
 Email: nick@portlandoregon.gov

cc: Commissioner Amanda Fritz, Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, Mayor Ted Wheeler

Dear Commissioner Fish,

Thank you for your leadership to ban Avitrol and other bird poisons on Portland city property. As you know, Avitrol is a neurotoxin that acts on the central and motor nervous system. The poison causes birds to behave as if they are convulsing or having a seizure.

You and other Commissioners have recognized that the use of avicides in our environment has reverberating consequences for not only the target species but non-target species that may come into contact with the fallen and/or dead. The first issue is the intrinsic worth of the target species. Why kill that species? Next, efforts to poison a species may in turn sicken or kill other species that feast on the dead and thus go on through the food chain upwardly for larger species and then downward for the decomposers.

To anyone not heeding the existential threat of poisons, read Rachel Carson's book, Silent Spring, one of the original alarms for the effects of poison in our environment.

Thank you,

Lynn Herring
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, Oregon 97210
lynnhe@outlook.com