

# UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

## Proceedings of the Vertebrate Pest Conference

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Vertebrate Pest Conference into the new millennium

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## VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

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On behalf of the Vertebrate Pest Council, welcome to the Nineteenth Vertebrate Pest Conference. As we enter the new millennium, we look ahead to the challenges wildlife will present in agriculture, public health, and conservation biology. Public attitudes toward wildlife, economic interests, and our desire to better manage the ecosystem make vertebrate pest control one of the most exciting and challenging fields in which to work. Certainly, the next century will bring many changes to how we view wildlife and what approaches we use to manage it. This conference, like the Eighteenth held during the last century, is devoted to better understanding of vertebrates, the situations where they cause problems, and how these can be addressed. I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and know that this meeting will be a key to furthering our understanding of this important field.

I want to acknowledge and thank the many people who worked to put on this conference. Foremost, are the program Co-Chairs Desley Whisson and Bob Timm. As you can see from reviewing the program, they have done a tremendous job in bringing researchers, public agency personnel, educators, pest control operators, and others here to learn and share about vertebrate pest control. Without their efforts, this conference would not happen.

I also want to thank the Arrangements Chair Rex Baker. Rex has worked tirelessly to attend to the many details that can make or break a conference. I think you will agree, he has done a wonderful job. You will also notice a well stocked exhibit room. This is thanks to the efforts of Exhibit Chair Pierre Gadd with the help of John O'Brien.

For those of you who were lucky enough to attend the field trip, you know I am sincere in thanking Gerry Miller for arranging a most dynamic and informative adventure. He also organized the Pub Crawl which is our experiment into a different type of conference activity. None of us would be here if we did not hear about the conference. Publicity Chair Paul Gorenzel and Minoo Madon were key in seeing that all of you were notified about this important conference. Another person who puts in many hours of behind-the-scene work is our Proceedings Editor, Charlie Crabb. We will all benefit from his work for many years after we disperse from this beautiful San Diego setting.

Thanks to all the other members of the Vertebrate Pest Council. Without their help, we could not make this conference happen. Finally, thank you for coming and sharing with us all. I am sure this will be a great conference.