



# Non-Toxic Rodent Control and Owls

## How can owls help you—and how can you help owls?

Owls don't build their own nests. Many owls use the old nests of other birds, but Barn Owls nest in cavities. A nesting box is a human made cavity nest for Barn Owls, which is needed because habitat loss is diminishing the amount of safe, natural nesting sites available.

Considering that a single Barn Owl family can eat thousands of rodents, nesting boxes can help people and owls alike. Whether you're interested in nontoxic rodent control, or you just love owls and want to see them in your neighborhood, installing a nesting box is a great thing to do.

To install a nesting box for Barn Owls, your property has to be rodenticide-free. Rodenticides (also known as rat poisons) kill rats but also poison any animal that eats rats—including owls. Rodenticides harm the entire food chain from the bottom up. If you use rat poison or any other harmful chemical, discontinue use and wait at least three months before installing nesting boxes.

## The Perfect Habitat

Barn Owls nest near open fields and meadows, and sometimes in urban areas when open spaces are nearby. Barn Owl boxes should be placed close to an open space, and mounted on a metal pole at least 10 feet high and away from owl hazards like roads, bodies of water, power lines, branches, and buildings. If you have open space on or near your property, installing Barn Owl boxes can help you—and the owls.

Visit [hungryowls.org](http://hungryowls.org) and fill out our box request form to start your consultation, or call 415.453.1000 x 20 to buy a box directly and install it yourself.

