

ANIMAL TALES

As winter approaches in suburban Washington, DC, a field mouse finds a small opening in the side of a house and heads inside. After a brief tour of his new digs, the mouse finds newly laid fiber optic cable – the perfect nibble to keep his sharp teeth from growing too long. One bite and he gets the shock of his life - but not an electrical shock (fiber optic cable carries no electricity). “Yikes” he says as he quickly scampers away to find something else more appealing on which to grind his incisors. “Never again”, he vows, “never again...”

A horse wanders over to the newly installed composite fencing surrounding his paddock. “Hmm”, he muses, “they’ve replaced my old chewed fencing with this delicious new one. Thank you!” But one bite and he rears back. “What the heck is that horrible taste and smell”, he wonders? “Never again”, he vows, “never again...”

The mouse and the horse have both just come into contact with products impregnated with Repela™ and their reactions are typical of all animals that encounter this aversive chemical. The shock this mouse received came from the plastic covering protecting the fiber optics. The covering contains only a few percent of dilute Repela but its powerful effects will protect the cable for at least the next 25 years. The same is true for the poor gelding. Repela was used in the process of manufacturing the fencing material. The gelding was repelled by both the odor and taste of composites infused with Repela.

Repela is a harmless, inert compound that causes an aversive reaction in all animals, birds and humans. Repela is based on a unique molecule with three properties – an extremely foul taste, a synthetic purine that mimics predator urine and a compound derived from very spicy peppers. Laboratory tests conducted with cables containing Repela demonstrated that cables bitten by rats produced a very agitated reaction in the animal, but without harming it in any way. In 100% of cases, the animal did not bite into the cable a second time. Repela actually modifies animal behavior.

