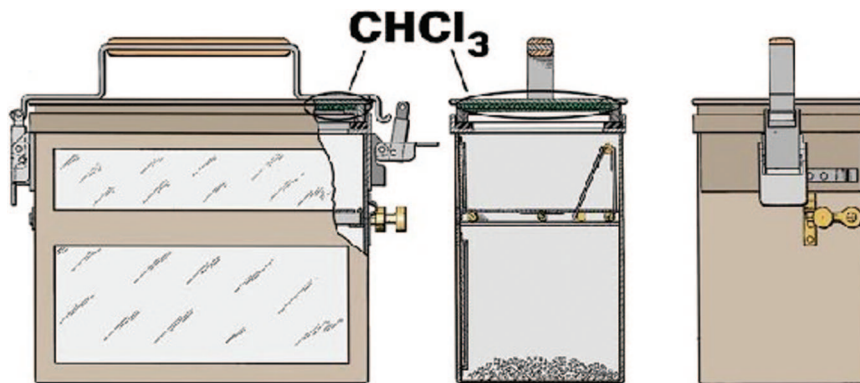


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■ ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

From Resuscitation to Extermination: Chloroforming Rodents



In November of 1974, San Francisco's Daniel B. Meyers and his grandson, Gary C. Yerby, filed for two U.S. patents, the first of which was granted in 1976 for their "Portable Rodent Exterminator" (pictured above), "for transporting and/or exterminating rodents collected in container-type traps designed to couple to the exterminator during transfer . . ." To preclude rodent escape during collection, the device employed an "absorbent material . . . [that could] be partially soaked with a liquid, such as . . . chloroform [CHCl₃], to . . . anesthetize collected rodents . . ." The Meyers-Yerby device consisted "of a container having a removable top, a retractable divider plate, and a viewing window in the side of the container for viewing the transfer and extermination process." About 95 yr before this patent, rather than extermination, chloroforming rodents had yielded valuable clues to resuscitation. Back then, a French surgeon had observed that most mice chloroformed to unconsciousness had tried to bite him when lifted up by their tails and then resumed their "insensibility" when placed flat again on a table. Inverting patients "tail in the air" or at least raising their legs soon became standard in treating anesthetic overdose. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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