

Fact Sheet #5 – Rodents



Description

The most common rodent pests in Australia are the House Mouse (about 20g); Roof Rat (260g); and Norway Rat or Sewer Rat (about 450g). As mammals they are covered in fur, warm blooded, suckle their young and gnaw at almost anything. Rodents are responsible for transmission of disease to humans and contamination of food in a variety of ways.

Habitat

Groups of rodents live in burrows in warm locations on gathered nesting materials such as a cloth, fur, paper and feathers. They often nest within 5m of food sources in well sheltered areas, typically at ground level. Rodents are most active at night.

Biology

Mice typically have 5 to 10 litters of 6 young in a single year. They can jump 30cm vertically, squeeze through a 6mm opening and are accomplished climbers. Maturity is reached in 6 to 10 weeks. Rats typically have 4 to 6 litters of 6 to 10 young, achieving maturity in 3 to 4 months.

Rodents have highly developed taste, hearing and touch senses, but poor eyesight and only live for about 12 months.

What you can do to limit infestation:

- Place bird food in feeders.
- Clean up food spillages daily.
- Clean up fallen fruit and nuts from the ground.
- Remove pet dishes and leftovers promptly after feeding.
- Clean up animal waste as soon as possible.
- Secure bathroom and kitchen vents.
- Clean up yard waste that can act as a shelter.
- Store firewood well off the ground.
- Repair leaks and holes in the sewer system.
- Trim dead fronds from palm trees.
- Promptly remove dead or trapped rodents.
- Flooring in aviaries should be concrete and cleaned regularly.
- Avoid touching rodent pests.







If you get an infestation:

Put your mind at rest, call 13 PEST (13 7378)

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