

## Rodent Facts

### Rats are excellent swimmers

Swim 800 metres

Tread water for three days

### Rats are great jumpers

1.2 metres horizontally

1 metre vertically

### Rats have very strong teeth

Gnaw through aluminum

Front teeth grow 2.5 cm per year



### Multiply Rapidly

The descendants of one pair can reach 15,000

### Excellent burglars

Crawl through gaps of 2cms

## ***"How do I know if I have a rodent problem?"***

### Sounds

Noises in the ceiling at night may indicate a rodent problem

### Droppings

Droppings can tell you if you have rats or mice as residents

### Tracks

Run tracks along walls and fences are also evidence of a rodent problem

### Gnawing

Damage to food, pantry doors and goods may be a sure sign of rodents

### Visual sightings

Seeing a rodent is a dead give away

Signs of fruit and vegetables being eaten or gnawed in the garden

Nest and food caches

Rats store food particularly snails and nuts in the corners of sheds and ceilings

### Pet excitement

If your dog or cat is acting strangely and staring at one spot in the wall or roof they may be trying to tell you something



## "What do I do?"



### Try the following tips

#### Hygiene

Keep all food and rubbish in sealed containers particularly if left over night

Food denial is vital to not only making the area less attractive to rodents but encourages bait acceptance

Do not compost meat scraps

Remove harbourage sights where possible i.e. tidy woodpiles, trim ivy and other vegetation around buildings

#### Physical Control - Traps

Rats may carry away traps unless they are fixed in place. Mice and rats will become wary of traps

#### Structural modifications

Keep gardens and trees from overhanging the roof

Cement cracks and gaps - seal access points around plumbing and wiring holes

#### Bait

Place baits in areas where rodents are known to frequent but ensure that children and pets cannot get access to them



## **"What problems will I have if I just leave them?"**

### **Health**

Rodents transmit many diseases to humans such as dysentery and the plague

### **Parasites**

Rodents carry many parasites such as ticks, lice and fleas which they pass on to domestic animals and humans

### **Contamination**

Rodent droppings and hair can cause food poisoning through contamination of food utensils and other objects.

### **Damage**

Doors, pipes and electrical wiring may all be damaged by rats gnawing them causing fire and leaking.

