



The Norway Rat
Rattus norvegicus

Basic Biology and habits

Despite the public's hatred of these mammals, rats possess amazing physical abilities. The Norway Rat is a strong swimmer capable of traveling distances of 1 ½ miles and can tread water for a period of 3 days. From a standing position it can jump vertically 4 feet, squeeze through openings ½ inch (diameter of your thumb) and are able to gnaw through wood, some steel and aluminum a lead and copper pipes.

The Norway Rat is a large robust animal varying in color from grayish brown to a blackish or reddish brown. Adults are 16 in total length (nose to end of tail) and weigh 12-16oz. They are also prolific breeders. An average female will have 4-7 litters in their lifetime containing 8-12 pups.

They are omnivorous and opportunistic foragers meaning they will eat anything from garbage to cockroaches, however due to their natural history of living in fields, fruits, grains and seeds are a familiar food source. These ground dwelling mammals construct ground burrow nests to protect them from the environment and to raise their young.

At EHS we believe that the majority of interior rat problems can be eliminated by rodent proofing the structure in conjunction with proper sanitation. We use situational pest management to custom design each program based on the clients needs. A variety of techniques are available from baiting to non chemical applications.

Prevention Tips

The main requirements necessary to support any pest population are food, water and shelter. Upset any of these three requirements for survival (preferably all three) and control will be easier and a solution achieved much quicker.

The single most important factor is sanitation. Environments free of other potential food items will put stress on pest populations and make our bait or trap placements more desirable and effective.

The second is water. Rats require a large amount of water. Cover empty barrels and return lids. Bring in toys and other items that may collect water.

The third requirement is shelter. Norway Rats are generally burrowing animals, although we have found them living comfortably inside of a wall cavity, ceiling or stored items in homes and businesses. Rodents prefer lots of cover. Proper pruning and trimming, removal of clutter and stored items and repairing openings will go a long way in preventing Rat infestations.

Please feel free to contact our office should you have an questions.