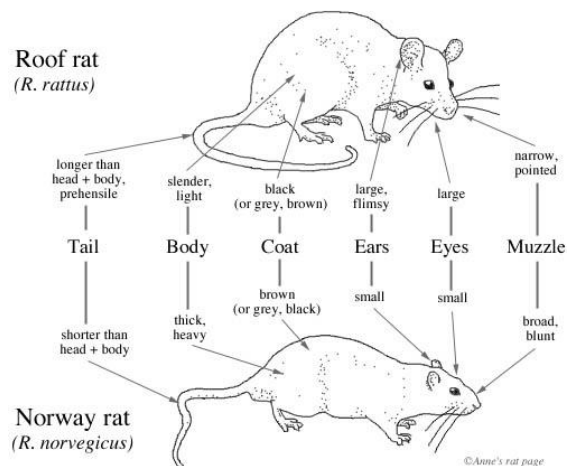


Rats are the world's most resilient animals.

RATS CAN:

- Fall 15 Metres without hurting themselves
- Swim 800 metres
- Tread water for three days
- Jump 1 metre vertically, 1.2 metres horizontally.
- Wriggle through holes a quarter of their size.
- Gnaw through lead and aluminium sheeting.

A Pair of rats can produce up to 15,000 descendants in a year!



Norway Rat

Body length: 15-20 cm

Body Weight: 330 – 450 grams

Roof rat

Body length: 17-25 cm

Body weight: 140 – 250 grams

CONTACT DETAILS

T (08) 8375 6600

F (08) 8375 6699

E council@marion.sa.gov.au

> marion.sa.gov.au

PO Box 21 Oaklands Park
South Australia 5046
245 Sturt Road Sturt
South Australia



A message about RATS



HEALTH RISK

The City of Marion has received complaints about a current vermin problem in the area.

Rats pose a significant risk to the health of the community. They can assist in the transmission of serious diseases, including the plague, dysentery, leptospirosis and typhus fever.

Their fleas, lice and ticks can also adversely affect pets and humans.

Excreta and hair from rats can contaminate food and utensils, causing food poisoning and economic loss. Rat colonies damage and foul buildings and furnishings. They also generate a terrible smell.

Rats' gnawing will damage buildings, pipes, conduits and wiring and has been the cause of electrical fires.

If rats are seen during the day it usually means that they are present in large numbers or are hungry.

SPOT THE RAT

To check whether rats are about, look for:

- Droppings (12mm to 18mm long)
- Debris such as snail shells with sides eaten out, almond shells, chop bones etc. Usually found in the corners of cupboards, sheds or other secluded areas.
- Signs of fruit and vegetables having been eaten.
- Greasy rub marks along paths they travel.
- Burrow holes around buildings.
- Dogs, cats or birds being more excitable than usual.
- Also, you may hear squeaking, gnawing or movement noises in walls, cupboards or in the ceiling or under floor area.

AVOIDING RAT PROBLEMS

Rats can be discouraged and ultimately destroyed by denying them food and shelter. A few simple precautions will prevent or help get rid of them:

- Keep firewood stack away from sheds and fences and well clear (40cm) of the ground.
- Don't accumulate garden refuse or junk piles in sheds or around your yard.
- Strip fruit and nuts from trees and vines at the end of the season.
- Block holes and other potential accesses around all buildings. For example, pipe and service entries, defective airbricks to name a few)
- Keep pet food dishes and bulk supplies in a manner that ensures no access by rats.



- Rubbish bins and compost containers should be rat-proof. Meat scraps must never be composted.
- Look around your premises to ensure you have not provided any other welcoming environments for rats. For example, overhanging trees, creepers climbing onto roof and pergolas.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS

Baiting:

Chemical Baits are the most effective way of destroying rats. Many brands and sizes are available in retail shops (supermarkets and hardware stores). It is important to read the manufacturer's instructions carefully and check baits regularly to ensure they are not accessible to children or pets and to see if rats have been eating them. Examples of products on the market:

Pellets	Bait Stations	Blocks	Traps
Talon	Rat Kill	Talon	Wooden traps
Racumin		Bromakil	E-rat-icator
Bromakil			
Rat Sac			
Rat kill			

Trapping:

The old-fashioned spring 'back break' trap is still the best trap for home use. Try different types of bait, i.e. bacon, fish, nuts, peanut butter or apple.

Remember:

Occupiers and owners of premises are required to prevent harbourage of rats and secure their destruction.