RODENTS

Did you know that rodents.................

- Live all around the world except in cold areas like the North and South Poles.
- Are excellent climbers and swimmers.
- Can use their tail as a “third leg” that can assist them in climbing.
- Breed rapidly and multiply every three weeks.
- Are nocturnal creatures; therefore they generally search for their food at night.
- Are attracted to trash piles, open garbage cans, unkept fence areas and rubbish.
- Can carry disease.
- Can enter an opening as small as ¼ inch.
- Can gnaw (chew) through wood, plaster, and soft metals.
- Can weigh over 1 pound and measure up to 18 inches from the nose to the tip of the tail.

There are several ways to inspect for rats:

1. GNAWINGS (bite marks)
   - Look for signs around doors, windows, utility lines, and packaged goods, especially in food storage areas.

2. BURROWS
   - Holes and fresh diggings around the foundations, under floors, sidewalks, platforms, embankments may be signs of rodent infestation.

3. DROPPINGS
   - Fresh droppings are a sure sign of a rodent problem. Look behind objects near walls and in places seldom cleaned or disturbed. Droppings look like brown rice.
There are ways to keep rats out of your home:

1. **STARVE THEM OUT**
   - Keep garbage and refuse in tightly covered metal containers. Keep entire premises clean. Pick up dog droppings.

2. **REMOVE THEIR SHELTER**
   - *Inside the home*: Store materials 12 inches or more above the basement floor. Do not allow food crumbs to accumulate behind the kitchen sink, stove or cabinets.
   - *Outside the home*: Store wood, coal, and other materials 12 inches or more above the ground and away from walls. Steps leading to the house should be concrete or masonry. If wood, the space beneath should be open and kept clean.

3. **BUILD THEM OUT**
   - Cover openings, such as ventilators with ¼ inch wire mesh (hardware cloth). Keep doors closed when not in use. Cover any edge that could be gnawed with sheet metal or hardware cloth. Close unnecessary openings with concrete or sheet metal. Keep floor drains tightly fastened to stop entry from sewers.

4. **KILL THEM**
   - *Traps (wooden-base traps)*
     Place traps along walls so that rodents must pass over the trigger. Use several traps. If baits are to be used on the trigger, use peanut butter with uncooked oatmeal or tie small pieces of bacon, cotton, raisins, or gumdrops to the trigger.
   - *Poisons*
     Poisons must be used with EXTREME care and in accordance with the manufacture’s instructions. These chemicals are available at hardware, drug and garden supply stores. Any poison program must be accompanied by the elimination of available food sources and harborage. Always keep poisons away from children and pets.

For more information contact:

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