

Rats and Mice

Urban Wildlife in our Community

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All neighborhoods have to deal with rats and mice in their communities. We create such a welcome environment for rodents to live in our landscaping and homes.

With our lush, nutrient rich landscaping giving rats and mice many places to hide and also providing them with plentiful food and water, no wonder we are constantly trying to keep their population at a manageable level.

It is important to implement an ongoing pest control program to help maintain their population at a low level.

Rats and mice reproduce quickly. House Mice can have five to ten litters a year, averaging five young each. Roof Rats can have an average of 25 - 40 young per year with sexual maturity reached at three to five months. One can see the potential for an increase in rodent populations throughout our communities!

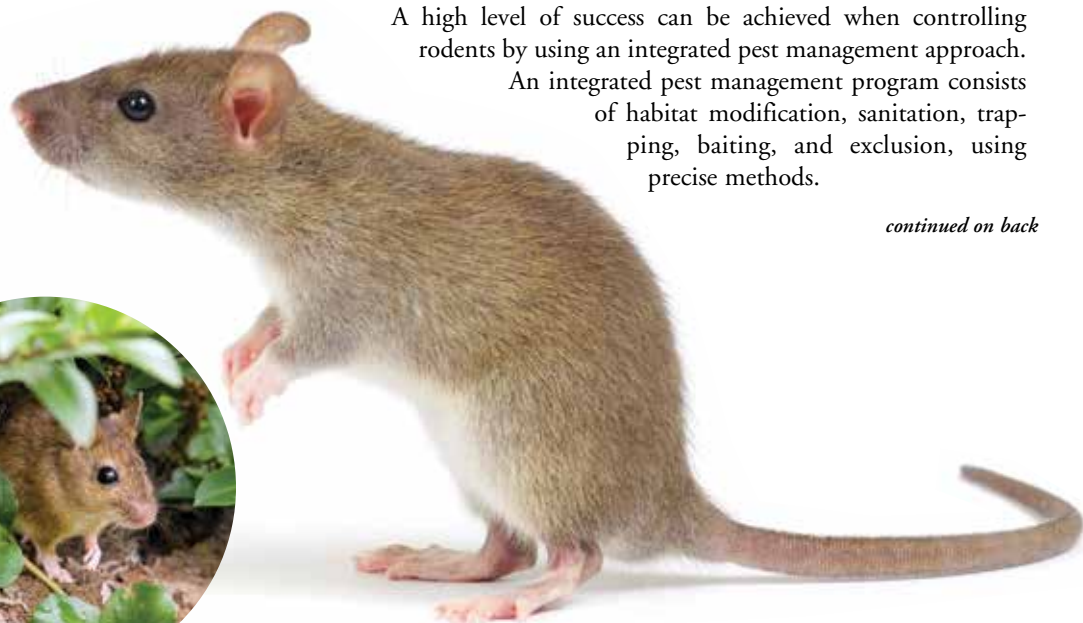
Rats and mice are nocturnal. They are excellent climbers. They have a keen sense of hearing, taste and smell and will travel as far as necessary in order to find their basic need of food, water and harborage. Mice tend to be more curious, visiting at least 30 sites a night looking for food; Rats are neophobic, more cautious and slower to accept new food and will visit only a couple of sites per night. Mice will eat a wide variety of foods, preferring cereal grains and plants. Rats prefer fruits, vegetables, nuts, berries and will also feed on the roots and bark of trees and plants.

Rats and mice will gnaw on wood, plastic, soft or porous cement, cardboard, soft metal, and wiring. They nest in enclosed spaces like boxes, drawers, wall voids, and in attics of homes. Outside they are known to live and nest in dense ground cover, shrubs, and trees.

A high level of success can be achieved when controlling rodents by using an integrated pest management approach.

An integrated pest management program consists of habitat modification, sanitation, trapping, baiting, and exclusion, using precise methods.

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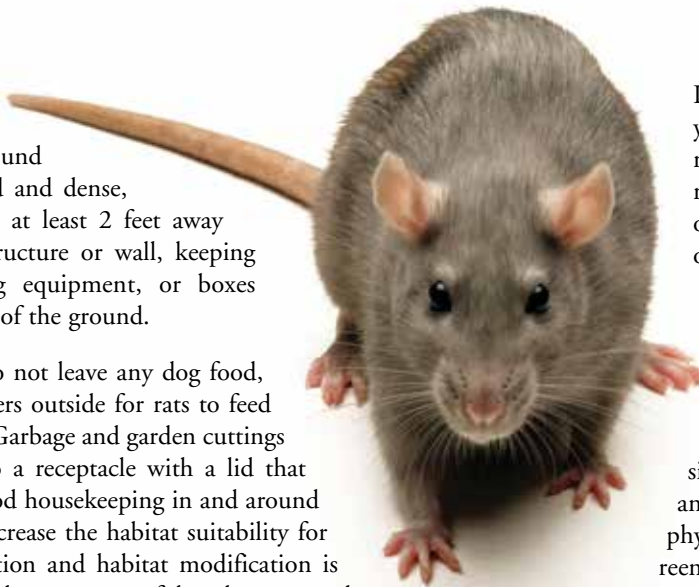
Sanitation and habitat modification consists of keeping ground covers neatly trimmed and dense, keeping tree branches at least 2 feet away from any building structure or wall, keeping any wood, gardening equipment, or boxes neatly stacked and off of the ground.

It is very important to not leave any dog food, cat food, or bird feeders outside for rats to feed on during the night. Garbage and garden cuttings should be placed into a receptacle with a lid that will close tightly. Good housekeeping in and around buildings will help decrease the habitat suitability for rats and mice. Sanitation and habitat modification is extremely fundamental to a successful rodent control program.

Another important aspect of a successful rodent control program are rodent bait stations. Tamper resistant rodent bait stations should be placed throughout your community. This helps maintain the rodents that are migrating from the surrounding areas keeping them at a lower population level. Bait should only be used on the exterior of homes or out in the landscaping.

It is a misnomer that when a rat eats bait they become thirsty and will go outside. They do not get "thirsty" but once the bait takes effect, they will die in wall voids or attic spaces.

The worse is still to come - a homeowner is then left with trying to live with a very foul odor for the next few weeks.



If a rat or mouse should make its way inside your home, trapping is the best method to remove the rodent. Based on the signs of rodent activity seen by the technician, a rat or mouse trapping program would consist of snap traps being placed where the rodent frequents. A typical rat trapping program will run for 10 working days.

Once the rodent has been trapped from the inside of the home, exclusion is the next step. A rat only needs an opening the size of a quarter whereas a mouse only needs an opening the size of a nickel. Exclusion is a physical barrier that prevents the rodents from reentering your home. An exclusion program consists of sealing any openings greater than 1/4 inch using hardware cloth, coarse steel wool, cement, and/or foam. Exclusion can be performed in most homes depending on the type construction and materials used when the home was built. Many openings are found around air conditioning units, vents, water and sewer pipes. Depending on the construction of the home it might take a few attempts to completely rodent proof the home. 🐾

Animal & Insect Pest Management Inc. specializes exclusively in vertebrate and insect pest problems, those that can be most destructive to turf and landscape including but not limited to gophers, ground squirrels, mice, rabbits, birds and general insects. We also offer the unique service of coyote, skunk, opossum and raccoon trapping. If bees or wasps present a problem, AIPM provides immediate emergency response, or scheduled services.

The majority of Animal & Insect Pest Management work is targeted at large scale problems where integrating precision pest management is of the utmost importance. Our experience includes control programs for parks, school districts, developers, homeowners associations, golf courses, water districts, landscapers, Cal Trans and the National Forest Service.

AIPM offers Free Inspections. You can conveniently make arrangements online at www.MyAIPM.com or, call their Customer Service at 1 🐾 888 🐾 344 🐾 6567. Talk with an Urban Wildlife Professional today and discover how we can help solve your animal and insect pest problems with Guaranteed Results.

