



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

Environmental Health Services Division

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Dear Resident:

Our office has received complaints concerning the sightings of rats in your neighborhood.

Rats require three things for survival: Harborage; Food; Water. Their water and food sources are usually within 100 to 150 feet (no more than 300 feet) of their burrows.

Davis County Health Department Environmental Health Services Division recommends the following procedures to eliminate and discourage rats from your property:

- Remove piles of garden and yard wastes.
- Keep sheds and outbuildings clean.
- Check woodpiles for rat burrows. Keep woodpiles off the ground (18" recommended) to eliminate nesting space. Rats like to hide in burrows and nest under woodpiles.
- Keep all garbage in containers with tight fitting lids.
- Pick up dog wastes daily.
- Feed pets only what they will eat. Clean up excess daily. Make sure animal food is either kept secure in the home, or -- if stored in the garage, a shed, or outdoors -- is kept in galvanized steel trash containers with tight fitting lids.
- Eliminate any water sources.
- Bait and fill all rat burrows that are found. Poison bait can be wrapped in plastic or wax paper and then pushed down into the burrow of the rodent. This protects children and pets from the poison, and you are sure the rats will run into it.
- If baiting is necessary, follow instructions on the package. Bait can be obtained from local stores or farm supply outlets.

Environmental sanitation is the first and foremost requirement for permanent rodent control. You can reduce rodent populations and keep them out by permanently eliminating their harborage, food, and water.

If rat burrows are found, you may wish to contact a professional exterminator. Professional pest controllers can be found under "Pest Control" in the yellow pages of your telephone directory.

If no rat burrows are found, you may wish to use commercial bait such as D-con[®]. The bait should be placed in an area of cover and should be monitored to see if rodents are eating it. Look for runways, rub marks, burrows, tracks, droppings, and gnaw marks to properly locate bait boxes and/or traps along well-traveled routes.

If you have any questions not answered by this letter, please contact this office or a professional pest controller.

Environmental Health Scientist
Davis County Health Department
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