WHAT'S BUZZING?

News from the World of Pest Management

What We're Learning about Rat Behaviour

Robert Corrigan, PhD
President of RMC Pest Management Consulting
talks about
Rodent Control and Food Safety:
Proactive Programs are the Key

What's Buzzing

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PEST MANAGEMENT pmanz ASSOCIATION of NZ

What's Buzzing Contents

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FROM THE EDITOR

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Hello everyone. It would seem all the talk over last few months has been all about rats. So, with that in mind, Paul Craddock has some interesting observations on Rat Behaviour, while Bobby Corrigan offers us a timely reminder on being Proactive Pest Managers.

The recent Rodent Survey also has highlighted the state of our activity levels around the country, which make interesting analysis and reading.

Conference registrations have begun and we already have about two dozen delegates registered, plus 5 confirmed Supplier Sponsorships as at the end of March.

Bill Robinson is looking forward to his visit and meeting many of you again. He was here in 2015, so make sure you don't miss Bill's visit, he is an absolute mine of information.

As usual there is lots to read in this issue. I particularly felt sorry for the poor bugger who got bitten by a white-tail spider and ended up in hospital, also the story from the public that had to witness the narcotised sparrows in Pt Chevalier, Auckland. Read more under NZ news.

Finally, recent changes with the PMANZ Vice Presidency are also fully explained by David Warrick on page 7.

Happy rodent hunting this autumn!

Warm regards

Peter

Bay of Many Coves, Marlborough Sounds

President's Pen

Maihi Cooper

Kia ora PMANZ members, suppliers, family, friends and other interested readers.

Welcome to the second edition of the PMANZ newsletter for 2024.

Again I hope all members, suppliers, family, friends and pets are staying safe and that you're all keeping well.

Let's hope with the change of the season we continue down a positive path and that the Autumn weather brings you good business opportunities out there.

As you probably know, reports show rodent activities continue to rise. Following on from last month's advice I would recommend that you take time to inspect your clients 'building integrity' and provide advice where necessary to 'deter or prevent access' to these vermin.

A couple of pointers include inspecting doors for gaps at the base that may allow rodents access inside and report harbourage areas that are present such as, unused items or equipment stored or left outside and overgrown vegetation near buildings that provides the cover for pests to move more freely without fear. Read more in this April edition.

Paul has provided information on rat behavior and rodent control, including the use of motion-sensing cameras and advanced sensor systems to study rodent behaviour.

He discusses neophobic tendencies in rats and mice and the challenges this poses for traditional control methods.

Bobby Corrigan also highlights the importance of proactive rodent pest management programs in food-handling establishments, emphasizing the need for thorough assessments, installation and servicing of control equipment, response plans, proactive inspections, and monitoring of incoming supplies.

There is also a great piece on Norway rat biology in Technical Hints from Liphatech.

Additionally, we provide an overview of a pest eradication proposal for Kawau Island, which includes two consecutive projects targeting wallabies, possums, rats, and potentially stoats. They mention the benefits of these projects, such as native bush regeneration and biodiversity monitoring.

Plus lots of other reading and news snippets from around the globe.

Finally, we summarize the results of the PMANZ Rodent Survey, which indicate medium to high levels of rodent activity and the use of various control methods by respondents.

Pest management continues to interest and attract new people into the industry. It is great to see the continuing growth each month. Please join me in welcoming the following members and trainees and newly qualified technicians.

As you know we have started conference registrations, and I look forward to welcoming you all, to what promises to be a great conference at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, where we hosted Bobby Corrigan in 2019. The venue works well for us and our sponsors and suppliers.
Hope to see you all there in August.

Newly joined as Qualified Technicians		
Steve	Clifton	JAE Nelson Tasman
Ruan	Preiss	A-Jet Services
Kaushal	Pillay	Rentokil
Karl	Tanyag	Rentokil

New Trainees		
Paul	Barron	Ecolab
Andrei	Watson	Ecolab
Chloe	Hearn	Ecolab
Simranjeet	Mand	Ecolab
Jordan	Reid	Ecolab
Nirmal	Das	Ecolab
Opey	Railton	Ecolab
Allan	Tutakitoa	Genus

Kind regards,

Maihi Cooper

Maihi

PMANZ President

CHANGES AT PMANZ COUNCIL

As many of you may already be aware, PMANZ has been fortunate enough to contract Dr Paul Craddock as a consultant to head our Training and Technical initiatives. In particular, Paul has started us on the path of online pest management training modules and quizzes that now feature on our website and will comprise part of PMANZ **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** for all members.

Because this is a paid position, Paul has, in accordance with PMANZ governance policies, withdrawn from his office as PMANZ Vic President to ensure there is no conflict of interest. He remains a valued part of the PMANZ Executive Council team – and will be talking at our August Conference about CPD – not to be missed!

We're also pleased to advise that Gerwyn Jones has been appointed to take over from Paul as Vice President of PMANZ.
Known by many for his product supply business, Gerwyn's position as VP comes from his own personal status as a Qualified Technician and actively uses this experience as a Careerforce Assessor to support the education and mentoring of new pest control technicians coming into the industry.

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Try Selontra for a safe, effective and cost-efficient method of rodent control.

What We're Learning about Rat Behaviour

By Paul Craddock

Advances in technology are revolutionizing the pest management industry by providing deeper insights into rodent behaviour. This has prompted many in the pest management industry to reassess traditional rodent control methods.

Conventionally, it was believed that rats were neophobic (fearful of new objects) while mice were more curious. However, recent use of motion-sensing cameras and advanced sensor systems has revealed a more nuanced understanding of rodent behaviour. Rats can (but not always) exhibit strong neophobic tendencies, sometimes even being repelled by new objects in their environment for extended periods. Other rats in the same population may be more inclined to investigate new objects in their environment. Likewise, mice can also exhibit neophobic behaviours in some circumstances. This challenges the efficacy of traditional control methods, as some rodents may never interact with control devices placed in their territories, instead sticking with what they know is safe.

Moreover, sensor technology has shown that rodents may visit bait stations without feeding on the bait, or may "test" new foods in their environment by feeding little and often. Research also suggests that rodents can communicate food preferences, potentially leading to different populations favouring different baits. This food aversion or behavioural resistance can also be passed on (learned) from parent rodents to their offspring thus potentially very rapidly compromising the efficacy of a baiting programme.

Article continues on next page

Considering these discoveries, rodent control programs may need to adopt a more flexible approach. This could include using a variety of bait stations and traps to determine local population preferences, as well as rotating bait formulations to prevent behavioural resistance.

Currently, numerous rodent control programs depend on exterior devices containing rodenticides or traps, along with similar interior devices. For the sake of uniformity and visual appeal, it's common to use the same devices and rodenticides throughout.

As Pest Management Professional we need to employ strategies involving varied bait formulations and rotation schemes to combat this challenge. There are many different designs of bait stations and traps. Stations come in different shapes/sizes and have different sized openings. Traps are made of different materials and have different designs.

All devices have a place and one of the first things we can do is to try different devices in different locations to determine which are preferred by the local population. Trap devices when used for response trapping should always be placed out unset first to accustom rodents to the new object, as well as to prevent trap shyness.

Getting neophobic or disinterested rodents to visit new control devices is a difficult problem to overcome. The use of lures can increase the attractiveness of the device. Food attractants are typically best used if they match the surrounding environment where rodents are currently feeding. In other words, trap devices baited with the food the rodents are currently feeding are more likely to be visited.

A second lure is to use rodent odours to attract other rodents. Rodents, due to their social and territorial nature, are intensely interested in each other, and so "blazing" a device with rodent odour will attract more animals. This is particularly effective using fresh urine and faeces of previously trapped rodents. Squeezing the lower abdomen of a dead mouse or rat to express urine and faeces to smear onto the entrances of control devices will attract further rodents to the device.

The old wild animal control adage of "captures lead to captures" applies to rodents, where a device that carries the odour of other rodents will capture more rodents than a clean trap. There needs to be a little care however, as rat odour may deter mice from a device, so it is important to correctly identify the rodent species present.

Rodenticides also need to be used differently. Offering a variety of different bait formulations to determine which one the population prefers. Mice for example, may prefer soft bait due to the moisture content, and bait preferences may change during different seasons. Female rodents may seek food higher in protein during reproductive cycles, while in winter high carbohydrate foods may be more sought after. Rotating formulations will prevent behavioural resistance.

The above ideas are not the only solutions. As an industry, we have always been at our best when confronted with challenges and, as professionals, we need to observe, learn and change to be effective when performing critical services such as rodent control.

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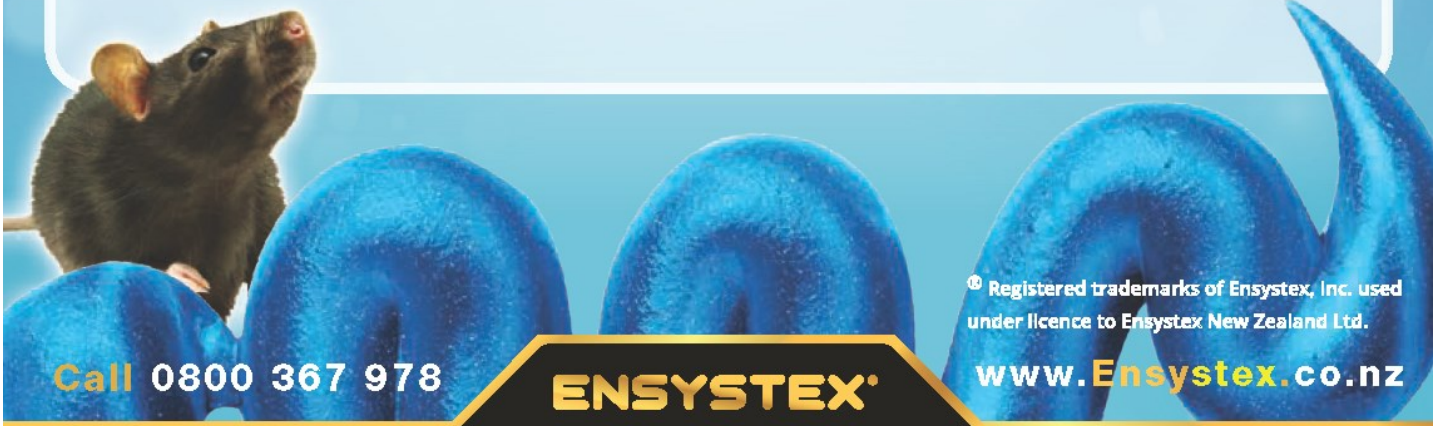

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Rodent Control and Food Safety: Proactive Programs are the Key

By Bobby Corrigan

RMC Pest Management Consulting

Are conventional programs keeping up with the changes in food safety risks and expectations?

Many of the rodent control programs in place at typical food-handling establishments (processing plants, warehousing and distribution centres, and retail stores) are set up with some type of exterior bait/trap stations and interior mouse traps installed according to a pest company's commercial business plan or according to a facility's particular third-party audit format. The goal for these designs is to help protect the establishment against rodents that attempt to enter (or are eventually successful at entering) the facility from exterior areas, or even from within a delivery. Both the food-handling establishment (FHE) client and the pest professional traditionally rely on such equipment installments and setups as the primary defence in their protective program against rodents for the facility.

But in today's climate of globally enhanced food safety programs, are "typical" rodent control programs adequate? Another way of stating this might be to ask: Are conventional programs keeping up with the changes in food safety risks and expectations?

Adding to this, consider the emergence of the various food safety regulations and auditing programs on a global scale. They truly do read as an alphabet soup. To be a pest professional serving the food industry, it is common to have to consider and understand a list of acronyms way beyond the basics of FSMA, GMPs and HAACP. Acronyms and names such as FQPA, GFI, AIB, SQF, FS 22000 and BRC are just a partial listing of where things stand these days in food safety and in pest management as part of all the food safety requirements. (Each of these food safety-related programs [and others] can be researched via Google or other Internet tools.

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So, should the installation of rodent control equipment be the primary defence against rodents in the food industry? And if not, what is primary, secondary and so forth?

The fact of the matter is the order should be based on the inherent aspect of the science of rodents and their biology relative to the specifics of food-handling establishments everywhere. This includes, for example, the nature of how rodents invade food facilities from the exterior, their ability to escape detection once inside, and the ability of some rodents to evade even the best-laid trap and exterior baiting schemes.

The purpose of this article is to emphasize the importance of proactive rodent pest management programmes.

And this begins by first thoroughly characterizing a facility relative to its current "rodent profile." To do this, the primary defence in rodent control and food safety is to confirm, prior to the installation of any equipment, whether or not any rodents or rodent colonies actually are infesting the grounds and/or the facility itself. And if so: a) to what level; and b) the specific locations of any infestations.

Based on such an assessment, the goal then is to determine what will be the specific plan, in addition to the installation of any rodent control equipment to maintain a FHE as "rodent free" as possible. ("Rodent free" on a practical level means as close to zero as possible within the realisation of everyday operations, surrounding exterior areas, etc.)

Proactive Programs.

So what does a proactive rodent control program look like? There is no one-size-fits-all type of program. However, I suggest the following eight steps can at least keep a program from slipping into a routine of merely "running the trap line" and relying on the results as the true barometer reading of rodents being present or about at the FHE.

Step 1. Formal rodent assessment of the facility and grounds

Remember, all areas of FHE buildings and grounds are vulnerable to rodent invasions. They do not restrict themselves to traveling along wall perimeters and property line fence rows and the like. Formal detailed rodent assessments for the presence/absence of rodents and a listing of the rodent active areas and the rodent vulnerable areas must be done in proactive programs (see later discussion for some of the areas that must be considered). Based on the assessment and the level of any rodent infestations inside or outside (see Table 1 below), the next steps as listed can be implemented.

Table 1. One example of a typical profiling of a current FHE rodent situation based upon a proactive inspection of the facility.

Interior Areas	
Level I-1	No rodents or active rodent signs (ARS) located in any areas of the facility.
Level I-2	Minor levels of mice (e.g., an incidental mouse or two periodically captured or noted indoors every few months).
Level I-3	Minor, but recurring activity of a few mice indoors at the same and/or at different locations in the facility.
Level I-4	Moderate levels of mice (e.g., several mice in same areas or different and ongoing with little or no real reduction over several months).
Level I-5	Ongoing and significant activity (daily sightings, repeating captures of mice in multiple traps in different areas of the FHE, etc.).
Exterior Areas	
Level E-1	No rodents or active rodent signs located in any exterior areas or within any of the exterior monitoring stations.
Level E-2	Minor levels of ARS in trap or bait stations (e.g., feeding, presence of droppings or trapped rodents in less than [+/-] 5 percent of all exterior stations).
Level E-3	Minor but repeating activity ARS in the same trap or bait stations (e.g., feeding, presence of droppings or trapped rodents in less than 5 percent of the exterior stations).
Level E-4	Moderate levels of activity and/or signs on different sides of the facility (e.g., upwards of 25 percent of the stations having feeding activity or showing the presence of rodent visits).
Level E-5	Ongoing activity and/or signs in different areas around the facility; more than 5 percent of the exterior stations on each side of the facility showing ongoing rodent activity.

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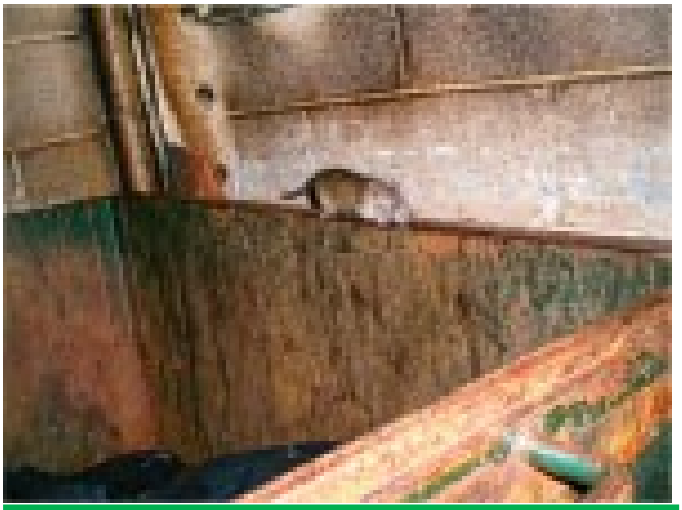

Figure 1. Rodents are arguably the top and most important pests in and around most food-handling establishments. Despite even the best pest management programs, rats and mice are often capable of continually breaching our protective barriers and ongoing inspections. Food safety programs must be unrelenting to offset the wily rodent's constant threat.

Step 2. Professional pricing and bidding for proactive programs

All too often, FHE clients and pest professionals attempt to establish a service cost for the pest management of a FHE before any type of assessment is done. The biggest mistake made in this regard, and what truly can jeopardize food safety, is to submit service bids based solely on the size of the plant (e.g., how many traps will be needed for 60,000 square feet of wall space; the number of exterior bait stations to be installed and the time required to service, etc.).

Proactive rodent control programs that maximize food safety require well-trained and experienced pest professionals. To implement proactive programs, it takes time. And excuse the no-brainer phrase here, but in the service industry, "time means money." Both parties have an important responsibility within the food safety partnership of pest management: quality pricing from the pest professional, and careful selection from a food company's procurement specialists. If indeed food safety is paramount to a food company, then selecting a pest professional based solely on a low price is to disregard the overall goal. It's a safe axiom that for pest threats around food facilities, food safety risks generally increase if the service quality and time (and thus charges) decrease.

Step 3. The installation and servicing of rodent control equipment

In proactive rodent programs, the installation of traps and bait station equipment is essential. But rodent control equipment always should be considered supplemental to the thorough rodent profiling of the facility and ongoing monitoring (surveillance) of areas in the specific facility that are considered "rodent vulnerable."

Many examples exist of rodent control equipment templates for the food industry and a full description is not the goal of this article (see Corrigan 2001, 2003). Suffice to say, rodent control equipment should be installed in both numbers and in locations based on Step 1, and not on some spatial yardstick measurement. The exception to this and where "yardstick installations" might actually be warranted is when — and for whatever reasons — the FSE is at a Level 4 or worse (see table), and the high rodent pressure demands as much equipment as possible.

If a proactive program is designed according to the initial assessment as described for Step 1, the pest professional will know which parts of the facility are most vulnerable; they will know the best locations for the bait stations and mouse traps. Certainly, rodent activity around large buildings is constantly changing. Equipment needs to periodically be added or relocated depending on the changing environments of the rodents themselves or changes in operations with a facility (e.g., large construction projects).

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Figure 2. Interior mouse traps along a food distribution wall. Such traps are an important component of proactive rodent control programs. But they are not more important than proactive inspections for rodent activity away from wall areas.

Step 4. A response plan for new or recurring activity

Rodents can arrive via any number of ways to even the best food facilities. They can scurry from a weedy patch across the parking lot to the first door or hole in the wall that allows them access to the interior. Or they can arrive within a trailer delivery. The point is a food plant or warehouse is always vulnerable to a new rodent incident.

Sometimes, activity — new or old — is noted within the installed traps or bait stations. Other times, activity is noted from employee sightings of rodents or rodent evidence on pallets, along floors, purlins, rafters, wall sill plates and the like. Sometimes, sightings and signs of rodents occur far away from any perimeter wall equipment.

This means that skillful inspections and interpretations of any captures, the monitoring data and/or presence of ARS, is mandatory. Knowing "what to do next" when, say a mouse, has been captured in mouse trap #73, or when exterior bait station #24 is suddenly showing heavy activity, is part of a proactive program. Simply noting that a mouse was captured in MCT #73, and then moving along to the next trap is not proactive.

Rather a professional-level inspection for mouse sebum trails (i.e., grease stains) on the nearest door jamb or hole around a penetrating pipe at the squeeze point, checking a ceiling void above the capture area, or noting the nearest improperly fitting door, should all be part of a response plan as part of a proactive rodent control effort. Note that this is where the time element of providing a professional food safety service is so critical.

Step 5. Proactive inspections for non-wall areas

It is not uncommon for severe rodent infestations to develop and irrupt far away from any perimeter wall trap and/or exterior bait stations. When this happens, these rodents are never captured in any perimeter equipment. Some examples of non-wall area inspections include, but are not limited to:

- Beneath the slabs in warehouses around the bases of support piers that penetrate through the slabs (between expansion joints where cement slabs meet or surrounds piers).
- In pallets of incoming goods; these pallets may be slotted for virtually anyplace within a large warehouse.
- In the damaged goods section (morgue).
- In aisles containing foods highly attractive to rodents (birdseed, grass seed, bags of dry pet food, etc.).
- In ceilings voids (especially above heat-generating processing equipment).
- In insulated walls near high ceiling areas; along roof-level purlins (especially roof rats).
- In interior dividing walls (especially concrete hollow block and/or insulated sheet rock walls).
- In office areas; around employees desks/ within cubicle divider walls and bases.
- Cafeterias and break rooms.
- Within vending machines.
- Uncleaned dock leveller voids.

Exterior Dumpster areas.

Article continues on next page

Step 6. Incoming supplies monitoring

The monitoring of incoming supplies is one of the heaviest lifts in rodent pest management for the client. Of course, it is not realistic to expect a food warehouse to inspect each and every pallet and every truck trailer floor for rodent droppings. Nevertheless, unloaders and other warehouse staff must be aware of the need to be alert for rodent stowaways. Mice, in particular, can and do periodically arrive directly into the facility within the everyday thousands of boxes that come off of trailers and are placed into slots.

When rodent droppings or other signs are spotted within any aisle of a plant or a warehouse, this information must be relayed to the pest professional. But just as important, the brands of products in the area of activity should be carefully checked and flagged for future attention. It's possible (but not absolute) that rodents came in as stowaways with some of those products; and more rodents might come in with future deliveries from those same brand name products.

Figure 3. Food safety demands a partnership between pest professionals and food clients. This exterior bait station, no matter how well placed and well baited, will not prevent rodents from freely entering into the distribution center through this decrepit screen door. Should that happen, the pest professional is often held "to task" for getting rid of the interior infestation of mice that has developed.

Step 7. Open and ongoing communication and review

Communication between the pest professional and the QA team of a FHE must be given top priority. The PMP should be scheduled to meet with the designated food safety team involved with pest prevention and control at the conclusion of any pest management service. It should never be a case of the plant's shipping/receiving supervisor, or an office employee signing off on the service ticket with an "I'm OK, you're OK" routine.

If the routine pest service report constantly states "No problems" or "Everything is good," the fact of the matter is everything is not good with such a pest service. Typically a proactive service from a quality PMP results in several recommendations for the FHE client. These recommendations are best delivered in some type of face-to-face meeting, however brief it may need to be.

Step 8. Quarterly review and progress reports

A review of where the plant is relative to the levels as listed in Table 1 (or whatever other company-tailored profile the partners agree to employ) is important for tracking success and/or chronic rodent infestations requiring additional attention. With rodents, it is not enough to wait until an annual independent third-party audit to take a hard and close look at where things stand relative to progress or threats. Whichever type of assessment is employed, it is important for both parties to have a progress report.

Article continues on next page

Summary.

To those outside of pest management, the incredible complexity of rodents and their interactions with us, our large food-handling establishments, and the food distribution chain, is usually not readily visible. Sometimes, clients will reduce rodent control in commercial facilities to: "How many rodents did you capture this month," or, "How many of the exterior stations are showing activity?" But, of course, this superficial understanding severely under-addresses food safety.

Similarly, the pest professional that services a food-handling establishment must go beyond "running" a trap and bait station line — even if they are using the most advanced bar coding and record keeping technology available. Those involved in food safety in the partnership of pest professionals and food-handling establishments must be trained to see the complexity and details of proactive rodent pest management that most others overlook. Modern day levels of advanced food safety regulations and audits require nothing less.

Source Article PCT – Read Original **HERE**

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The author is president of RMC Pest Management Consulting, Richmond, Ind.

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References

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Trapping rodents takes time and skill. Pest control technicians hunt for rodent signs at their accounts then use those clues to strategically place traps and bait stations.

However, rodents' favorite places can be hard to reach or potentially dangerous, like false attics, crawl spaces, or underneath machinery. The worst part is, servicing traps in those spaces can be a fruitless effort. A technician may climb a ladder to check a trap, only to find it's still set. This wastes their time and puts them at risk of falling.

iQ products solve these problems by empowering technicians with Bell Sensing Technologies. Each iQ device contains an integrated Bluetooth sensor that tracks rodent activity. Once a technician arrives to their account, they can simply check their smart phone to see if rodents have visited any traps or bait stations. This will save technicians from bending over and checking empty traps, giving them extra time to perform inspection and exclusion.

The data iQ products gather also can be used to improve rodent control plans. Bell Sensing Technologies' automatic reports show how many rodents visit bait stations and when, and what areas see the most activity. The reports clearly lay out these trends, giving technicians the information they need to stay ahead of infestations. The data can also be shared with customers, allowing them to see how rodent control is protecting their home or business.

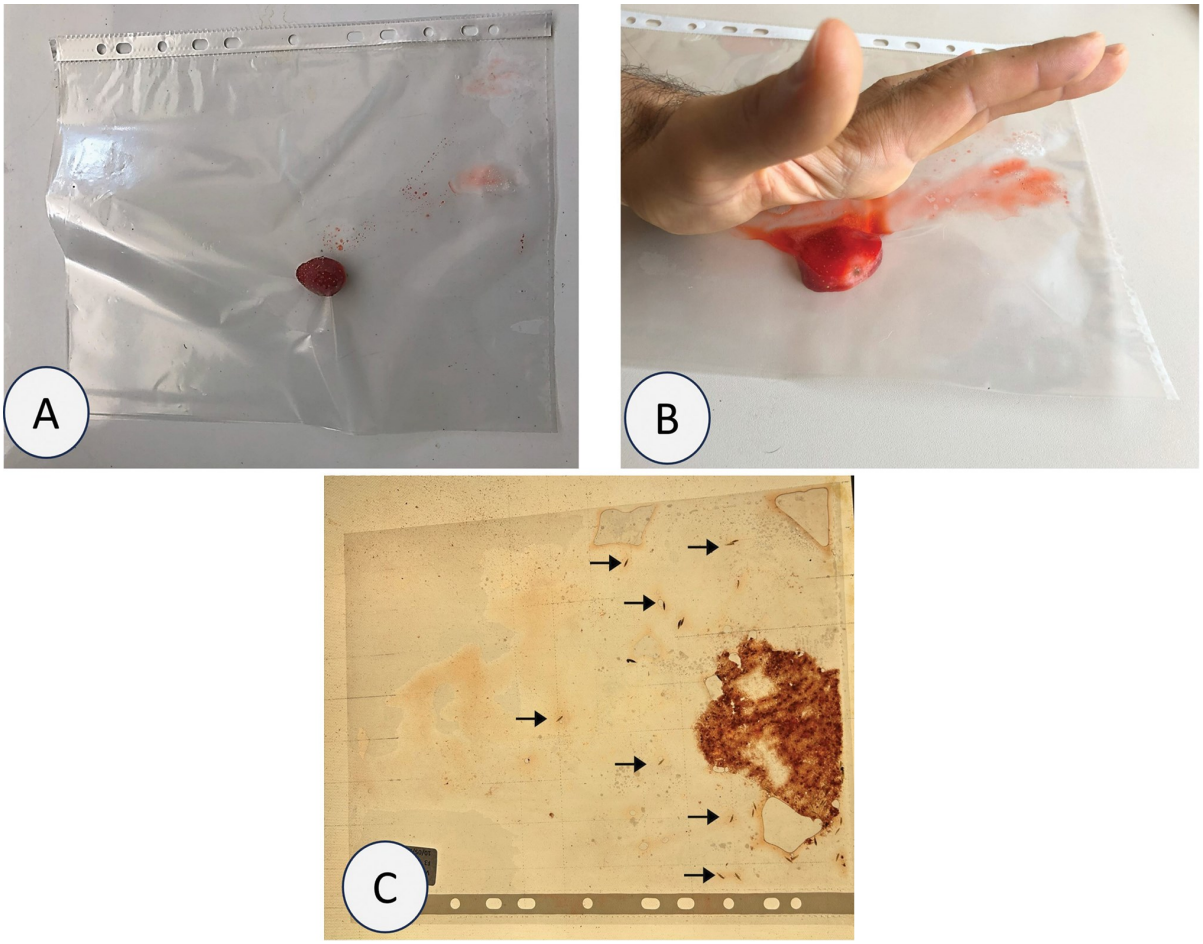
Bell Sensing Technologies powers four different iQ products, so technicians have options for their service. The Pulse Mouse iQ and Pulse Rat iQ accommodate both traps and bait, while the 24/7 iQ is a sleek, multi-catch trap for tracking mouse activity. If a bait station isn't needed, the T-Rex iQ snap trap will let technicians know exactly when a rodent triggered it.

Whether it's at a home or business, iQ products can help technicians deliver efficient and quality service.

To learn more about how iQ products can improve your service, visit **BellSensing.com** or contact your Bell Laboratories representative.

Science News

How a Common Office Product Can Speed Up Monitoring for Invasive Fruit Flies



Sheet protectors keep pages in a binder pristine, but entomologists in France have found a new use for them as a handy tool for quick visual inspection of fruit infested with larvae of the invasive fruit fly spotted-wing drosophila. Just crush the fruit inside the sheet protector and count the larvae. The three steps of the sleeve-method process are illustrated here. In frame C, larvae are indicated by black arrows. (Adapted from image originally published in Zriki et al 2024, Journal of Economic Entomology)

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Science News

Getting rid of bed bugs: Trickier than ever

The blood-sucking insects now show up in two varieties and are resistant to many pesticides. New eradication strategies include fungal spores and nasty human odours.

he stories have become horribly familiar. Houses so overrun by bed bugs that the bloodsucking insects pile an inch deep on the floor. An airport shutting down gates for deep cleaning after the parasites were spotted brazenly crawling around. Fear and loathing during Fashion Week 2023 in Paris, with bed bug detection dogs working overtime when the insects turned up in movie theaters and trains. For reasons that almost certainly have to do with global travel and poor pest management, bed bugs have resurfaced with a vengeance in 50 countries since the late 1990s. But recently, the resurgence has brought an added twist. When exterminators swarm out to hunt these pests, they might encounter not just one but two different kinds of bugs.

Besides the common bed bug, Cimex lectularius, which has always made its home in the Northern Hemisphere, there are now sightings of its cousin, the tropical bed bug, Cimex hemipterus, in temperate regions. Traditionally, this species didn't venture that far from the equator, write entomologists Stephen Doggett and Chow-Yang Lee in the 2023 issue of the Annual Review of Entomology. But in recent years, tropical bed bugs have turned up in the United States, Sweden, Italy, Norway, Finland, China, Japan, France, Central Europe, Spain — "even in Russia, which would have once been unthinkable," says Lee, of the University of California, Riverside.

Source **The Knowable Magazine**— Read Original **HERE**

knowable MAGAZINE
FROM ANNUAL REVIEWS

News Worth Sharing

The U.S. EPA's Potential Reclassification of Rodenticides

At issue is the ongoing re-evaluation of 11 rodenticide active ingredients by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In a Proposed Interim Decision (PID) released in November 2022, the agency announced its intention to reclassify rodenticides as restricted-use pesticides (RUPs).

In addition, some uses of rodenticide would require additional personal protective equipment (PPE) for applicators and the search and retrieval of rodent carcasses to prevent the secondary poisoning of non-target species, such as coyotes, mountain lions and birds of prey.

The proposed changes generated 22,000 stakeholder comments during a public discussion period that ended Feb. 13, 2023. To thoroughly review these comments, EPA has delayed making its Interim Decision on rodenticides until July 2024 at the earliest.

Pest management and regulatory professionals shared how EPA's proposed changes, if enacted, could affect pest control company operations.

See Original PCT Article **HERE**

News Worth Sharing

Rodent population increased after pesticide ban in British Columbia, says Vancouver pest controller

Pesticide ban encourages large rat population at Langara to flourish

Rat by the loading docks at Langara College on March 1, 2024 (via trailcam). Photo by Louis Bergeron

Langara College students and staff say they are noticing more rats on campus as the city grapples with a continuing increase in its rat population.

Langara marketing management student Jeah Dino said she has seen rats darting in and out of bushes throughout the campus.

“It makes me feel that the campus is not really hygienic,” Dino said.

Many bait stations are located around the campus to trap and humanely kill rats. Despite that, rats have been spotted roaming around the campus by students who attend classes at night. Vancouver has seen an increase in rats since 2021 when the province banned the use of rat poison to reduce accidental poisoning of other animals and wildlife.

Videos of rats at locations in Vancouver have gone viral on social media in recent months.

“There’s been a steady increase in the rat population [throughout Vancouver],”Mike Londry, owner of Westside Pest Control said.

This ban was first implemented in 2021, after concerns were raised that pesticides were harmful to other animals and wildlife populations such as raptors. Thousands of supporters of the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals supported a pledge not to use pesticides. More than 20 B.C. municipalities passed motions to ban rodenticides.

See Original Media Release **HERE**

News Worth Sharing

Human Plague Case in Oregon Likely Spread by Pet Cat, Health Officials

A person in Deschutes County, Ore., has been diagnosed with a case of bubonic plague, making that person the state's first confirmed case of this rare bacterial infection since 2015.

Plague bacterium Yersinia pestis, scientifically accurate 3D illustration showing structure of the cell with DNA, plasmids and ribosomes. istock | Dr_Microbe

Human Plague Case in Oregon Likely Spread by Pet Cat, Health Officials Report a person in Deschutes County, Oregon, has been diagnosed with a case of bubonic plague, making them the state's first confirmed case of this rare bacterial infection since 2015. The person was probably infected by their cat, and "all close contacts of the resident and their pet have been contacted and provided medication to prevent illness," Dr. Richard Fawcett, the Deschutes County health officer, said in a statement last week. Common antibiotics like gentamicin and fluoroquinolones are first-line treatment for plague, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The infected person was "treated in the earlier stages of the disease," according to the statement, and poses "little risk" to the community. About seven human plague cases are reported each year in the United States, primarily in rural Southwest and Northwest areas, according to the CDC. Plague is caused by the bacterium Yersinia pestis. Humans usually get it after being bitten by a flea that is carrying the bacterium or after encountering an infected animal.

Source PCT Online

Read the Original article **HERE**

News Worth Sharing

'Very large' German wasp nest discovered on Martinborough farm

A large German wasp nest removed from a farm in Martinborough. (Source: Supplied)

A "very large" German wasp nest found in Martinborough which managed to survive for two summers could be down to climate change, an expert says.

In New Zealand, about 10% of German wasp nests are able to survive the winter.

Victoria University of Wellington entomologist Phil Lester said due to low rainfall, warmer summers, and warmer winters, we can expect to see more of these large wasp nests.

"A normal nest might contain 10,000 workers. This nest was 100,000 to 200,000 workers," Lester told 1News.

The nest was found on a farm in Martinborough last week and was removed on Monday. Parts of the nest are at Victoria University of Wellington for testing.

"One of the really interesting things about this is 'how do these nests get to be so big?' and 'what are the conditions?' and 'what is the population genetics associated with getting to be such a large size?'"

The nest measured approximately two metres long, roughly 1.5 metres high, "and a similar size in width", he said.

The Guinness World Record for the largest nest was discovered in Auckland in 2020. It was 3.75 metres tall and 1.7 metres wide.

Source 1 News Read and See Original **HERE**

NEW ZEALAND NEWS

New Plymouth District Council tackles wasps as breeding season begins

The German wasp poses a safety risk to humans and native birds. (File photo) SUPPLIED

As breeding season for german wasps begins, New Plymouth District Council isn't holding back any punches.

The council has returned to its long-running wasp baiting programme in a bid to tackle the pest in the district's not-so-friendly insects which will breed during February and March.

Aotearoa has some of the highest densities of german and common wasps in the world, according to the Department of Conservation.

They pose a safety risk to humans, and eat native insects and honeydew - which are important food sources for native species such as kākā, tūī, and geckos - and attack newly hatched birds in their nests, the council said.

An $11 million project started in Dunedin in January to eliminate wasps for good in Aotearoa, working on genetically modifying wasps to destroy colonies from the inside.

But while the nation awaits a cure for the pest, council staff will be setting up poison-bait stations, filled with Vespex in yellow boxes about 1.5 metres off the ground, in the hopes the wasps will take bits back to their nests and kill off the colony.

Article continues on next page

The boxes will be installed at 50 sites on public land from Ōkato, up to Urenui and inland to Inglewood out of reach of children and dogs with warning signs nearby.

The council's horticulture coordinator Alex Harfield said staff had noticed a difference in the wasp population since the baiting almost two decades ago.

"Nearly 20 years ago there were a lot more than 100 nests treated every year throughout the district, but these days we're seeing a lot less."

But even with their vigilance, some recently discovered nests have been huge, Harfield said.

"We found on in Manukōrihi sportsground in 2016 - the bank had collapsed in a slip, and we could see it was the size of a small car."

While the poison will attract the wasps, while bees will be safe from harm, the council's open spaces manager Conrad Pattison said.

"We use a protein-based poison, which is safe for bees because they're not interested in eating it.

"But wasps are keen on protein - that's why they hand around if you're eating a meat sandwich outdoors - and they're take the poison back to their nests."

Pattison said while the council doesn't manage nests on private property, he was keen to hear from anyone who saw one in a public park or reserve.

"They forage up to 200 metres from their nests, so keep and eye on their flightpath and if you spot a likely location, please take a photo so that we can find it easily."

Source Taranaki News
Read Original HERE

'Lucky to be here': South Island spider scare for North Island man

Palmerston North real estate agent Andy Stewart is still in hospital more than a month after suffering a white-tail spider bite. Photo: Supplied

A North Island real estate agent is warning people not to be a “hero” after he put off seeking medical attention for a spider bite and ended up in hospital unable to walk.

Andy Stewart recognises he’s lucky to be alive and faces months of antibiotics and rehabilitation following the debilitating injury.

Stewart was riding his motorbike to the Burt Munro rally in Southland last month when he felt an “excruciating” pain in his chest from what he believes was a white-tail spider which had worked its way inside his jacket and T-shirt.

White-tail spider bites should be treated as soon as possible.

The Palmerston North man instinctively crushed the offending bug, then pulled over to treat the bite, focusing more on his injury than on what had inflicted it.

“I’ve had spider bites and wasp bites before, but nothing like this,” he said.

He regrets what he did next - simply carrying on with his motorbike trek instead of seeing a doctor for the bite, which he said was a concerning one.

A few days later he noticed his shoulder was feeling stiff, but thought he had tweaked an old injury and didn’t think much more of it. As the pain worsened and his shoulder swelled, he stopped at Greymouth Hospital to ask for the shoulder to be strapped.

Article continues on next page

The infection travelled down Andy Stewart's leg and he had to have an operation on his foot. Photo: Supplied

Stewart continued on through the pain, even working a couple of shifts when he returned home from the rally.

By about a week after the bite, he said he "wasn't feeling that crash hot", and found his leg had also swelled up and he was unable to walk. The following morning he called an ambulance and was taken to hospital.

It was only about that point Stewart connected the bite to the shoulder and leg injury, and asked the doctor if it was possible the bite had caused it. This was later confirmed.

"He said to me 'you are lucky to be here'."

He said fluids rush to the site of an injury, and in his case had allowed the poison in his body to travel to his shoulder and then down his leg. Stewart had to have procedures and tests to check the state of his vital organs as well.

The bite was most likely from a white-tail, and while its venom would not have caused the effect he was experiencing, the bite had allowed staphylococcus bacteria on his skin to enter his system and wreak havoc.

"Apparently the staph is on everyone's body . . . once it gets inside it causes a mucus and it sticks to everything."

The doctor had told him the bacteria would settle in and "have a bit of a munch on your bones".

A month on from being admitted, he is still in hospital and suspects he could still be there for another four weeks yet.

Article continues on next page

Stewart has had two operations under general anaesthetic to flush the shoulder and foot, and said he will need to spend at least six months on antibiotics.

Today he will try for the first time in a month to take a few steps with a moon boot on, and has been told her may need another operation on his foot several months down the track.

Stewart said the whole experience was "bloody scary" and wished he had simply gone to a doctor straight away.

"If I did that in Queenstown this whole thing could have been a different scenario," he said.

"I didn't know that people have died of this. People have lost fingers on their hands . . . I just don't think the awareness is there.

"It's really important that I get this out there to people: don't be a hero. Go to the hospital if you get a bite like that."

Source Otago Daily Times

Read Original **HERE**

Whited-tailed spider *Lampona murina*

Photos: Courtesy Cor Vink, Canterbury Museum

Expert backs Daily Bread bakery claims, eight poisoned sparrows survive

A poisoned sparrow outside the Daily Bread bakery in Pt Chevalier.

A pest management expert says the poisoned sparrows found outside an Auckland bakery are highly unlikely to have been poisoned in a controlled cull performed two weeks ago.

Video of sparrows struggling to walk or fly outside the Pt Chevalier branch of the popular Daily Bread chain went viral this week, with complainants claiming that the store had poisoned the birds.

Daily Bread conceded that they had contracted a third-party pest controller two weeks ago, but claimed that no further poisoning had taken place since and noted that the birds were found in carpark shared with neighbouring businesses.

Dr Paul Craddock, a pest management and biosecurity expert, said he had reviewed the footage and believed it was highly likely they had ingested alphachloralose and highly unlikely that it was from the cull performed a fortnight ago.

Alphachloralose is an anaesthetic, Craddock explained, and worked with an hour of ingestion.

He said there was a small possibility that they had consumed an older piece of bait that contained a dose of the toxin, but said any material remaining from an operation two weeks ago would have likely already been consumed by another animal.

“That’s an operation that has taken place in the last couple of hours. You wouldn’t be seeing that number of birds drop out of the sky if there hadn’t been an operation within a few hours.”

Article continues on next page

What is alphachloralose?

Craddock told the alphachloralose was the most commonly-used bird poison and put birds to sleep.

The chemical, which is able to be purchased and used without a license, would knock the birds out and users needed to be careful to get the dose right.

Too much would kill the bird outright and too little might see it fly off and collapse elsewhere, which might cause distress to onlookers.

When the birds fell asleep they could then be collected and euthanised. He said the professional pest controllers were careful to put the toxin out in the early morning and then sweep the area shortly afterwards to collect the birds.

“Thats how a good operation should proceed,” he said.

“But of course you can’t guarantee you’re going to get every single bird.

“It’s absolute dog of a job, I’ve done it myself,” he added.

“I hate it, it’s not pleasant.”

He said controlling sparrows with physical barriers was exceedingly difficult as the animals had shown the ability to learn how to activate automatic doors to gain access to indoor spaces.

Describing sparrows as “like feathered mice”, Craddock said pest bird control was just as necessary as rodent control but “is in people’s faces and looks terrible”.

“It’s an unfortunate necessary evil sometimes, but there’s nothing better and that’s the problem.

“I don’t like it and lot of pest controllers just don’t like doing it.”

Eight birds survived

Eight poisoned sparrows recovered from outside the bakery have been nursed back to health and released into the wild.

Nine of the birds were taken to BirdCare Aotearoa’s hospital in Green Bay after they were found outside the Pt Chevalier branch of Daily Bread on Tuesday.

Chelsea Crossley from BirdCare told the Herald one bird died in transit to the hospital but the birds they treated were healthy enough to be released into the skies above Green Bay on Wednesday evening.

She said BirdCare was told by the SPCA that a number of dead birds were found in the area when the survivors were initially transported.

Crossley said the birds received fluids and the poison appeared to have passed through them quickly but could not confirm which specific poison had been used.

Daily Bread found Josh Helm told the Herald on Wednesday that their pest control was done humanely.

The popular chain issued a statement on social media this morning telling customers that their “thoughts matter”.

“We assure you that our pest control practices, commonplace in our industry, not only comply with stringent food safety standards but also specifically address potential health risks associated with bird population,” the statement read.

“We’re actively working with our partners to find alternative ways to handle pests.”

Article continues on next page

An SPCA spokesperson said its investigation into incidents involving dead sparrows was ongoing and its inspectorate team were working to gather all information relating to this case including toxicology testing to determine cause of death.

“Anyone with information about pest management measures being employed by businesses or individuals or who have witnessed attempts to eradicate birds is urged to contact SPCA,” the spokesperson said.

A spokesman for the Pest Management Association of NZ (PMANZ) told the ***Herald*** that treating for birds was a “difficult subject” for pest controllers.

He said that physical barriers were hard to maintain in restaurants and cafes, leaving two options: Poisoning or shooting.

“Neither of which is particularly attractive,” he said.

Jonathan Simes, general manager of Smash’ed Em Pest Control, said the furore over the video was a “storm in a teacup” but said he understood why the public would be distressed by seeing injured birds.

“But the other side is: Who wants to see bird poo in their bakery sandwich?” he said, noting that contamination from bird faeces was a “major risk”.

Helm said that the consequences of birds being on site could be severe and argued it was common practice in the hospitality industry to use third-party pest controllers.

Steve Armitage, chief executive of Hospitality New Zealand, told the ***Herald*** that pest removal is a necessary measure to comply with strict food standard, health and safety regulations but said that Hospitality NZ understood that poisoning was not a widespread or common practice.

“If a business has an infestation that’s potentially putting customers at harm, businesses will generally try other avenues of pest control in the first instance, with poison being a last resort,” Armitage said.

‘Hard to fathom’

Videos of the sparrow struggling to move outside Daily Bread prompted a furious response from animal lovers, but the bakery says the birds are pests and risk contaminating food.

Auckland woman Mimi Kelly was visiting the Point Chevalier branch of Auckland’s Daily Bread bakery chain on Tuesday when she saw sparrows outside the business looking “very unwell”.

Kelly told the ***Herald*** that the small birds appeared poisoned, were struggling to hop about and being targeted by seagulls.

She claims a staff member told her the birds had been deliberately poisoned because the business had a health inspection due soon.

Helm has defended the controlled cull, saying the birds pose a potential health risk and maintaining health and safety standards is the number one priority for his business and customers.

Kelly recorded video of the birds and her encounter with another member of staff, who denied being involved with poisoning the birds but admitted they did appear to have been poisoned.

She contacted the SPCA, which arranged for the surviving animals to be taken to BirdCare.

When Kelly emailed Daily Bread for answers, she received a response telling her that sparrows were pests and posed a health risk.

“We have had in-depth conversations with our pest control company and they (as well as the Department of Conservation’s research) deem sparrows and pigeons as pests that have been introduced into NZ,” the response read.

“The pests are non-native, meaning they are the most detrimental non-native bird species for our native biodiversity that we know, love and cherish.”

The email said the birds also “risk the contamination of food, ingredients that we have stored in our venues and the general venue space where our guests dine”.

The birds built large nests which could also pose a fire hazard and spread bird lice, “so we deem removing them from our venue a positive solution for the safety of our customers”.

“We are continuing to work closely with pest control to find more humane ways of deterring the pests from our venues, as many other Auckland businesses are having issues with. If you did have any suggestions, we are completely open to hearing them.”

Kelly posted the videos online, where people expressed shock. Kelly said she shared that distress and was devastated when she learned the poisoning was deliberate, saying it was “hard to fathom that someone would be so cruel”.

Asked how different this poisoning was to targeting other pests such as rats, Kelly said “everybody loves sparrows” and labelled the birds “poor wee innocent souls”.

She said there were other ways Daily Bread could have handled the situation.

Helm said contracting a third party to perform the pest removal was a “last resort” and done under strict guidelines and outside business hours.

It was incorrect to say the poisoning was done directly before a health inspection, Helm said.

Helm acknowledged that the consequences of birds being on site during an inspection could be severe and said it was common practice in the hospitality industry to use third party pest controllers.

His business received an A Grade following inspection, but had a bird been seen inside, it would have received a D grade.

He said the top priority was “maintaining a high health and safety standard” and said that the pest removal was done in a humane manner.

Source NZ Herald— Read Original **HERE**

Kawau pest eradication proposal finding common ground

Auckland Council's proposed project to rid Kawau Island of rats, stoats, possums and wallabies has been modified, following community consultation.

Since the proposal was initially presented last summer, alterations prompted by feedback have been made, pest eradication project lead Lisa Tolich told a Rodney Local Board workshop on February 28.

Council is now looking at two stand-alone, consecutive projects.

The first would focus on eradicating wallabies and possums ("browsers") over a period of around 24 months, carried out through hunting in the case of wallabies, and a combination of hunting and bait stations to target possums.

Provided the necessary funding was obtained, this project could get underway in about a year's time. Council said the benefits for native bush regeneration would be quickly evident.

A subsequent project would focus on rats (as well as stoats, if their presence on Kawau was confirmed), and would not likely start before the winter of 2026.

The rodents would be killed using a combination of ground-based and aerial broadcasting of bait, and the use of bait stations stocked with the toxin brodifacoum.

"The benefits of the second project would be demonstrated through longer-term biodiversity monitoring of ecosystems and individual species," council said in a report to the board.

Article continues on next page

While consultation found that the goal of a pest-free Kawau enjoyed broad support, elements of council's original proposal attracted some community pushback (MM, September 11, 2023).

There were objections to eradicating wallabies at all, concerns that brodifacoum could harm non-target species, and opposition to non-islanders seeking access to private properties to monitor and maintain rodent traps.

Tolich said deferring the timeline for the second project would allow additional time to work with the community on the "more controversial" rodent eradication element, to build relationships and trust, and to work with individual residents on unique requirements relating to their properties.

Council had not shut the door to suggestions – also arising during the consultation process – that a captive population of wallabies be allowed to remain on Kawau, she said.

Should that happen, any such facility would be on public conservation land, would require the involvement of "a group of motivated individuals", and would entail conditions such as the wallabies being desexed and microchipped.

Tolich said council was supportive of a new community-based initiative, the Kawau Community Conservation Trust (KCCT), which aimed to focus on eliminating rats (MM, February 19).

She noted that the KCCT plan aimed to control rat numbers, not eradicate them altogether, but "it could be a stepping stone towards that".

Board member Michelle Carmichael asked about the potential use of the 1993 Biosecurity Act to compel resisting landowners to allow access to their properties, one of the more controversial issues to arise in the original proposal.

"That is a fallback option, and the absolutely last option that you'd ever want to use," Tolich said.
In a bid to deepen community involvement and buy-in, council is proposing the establishment of a community forum and a six-person steering committee.

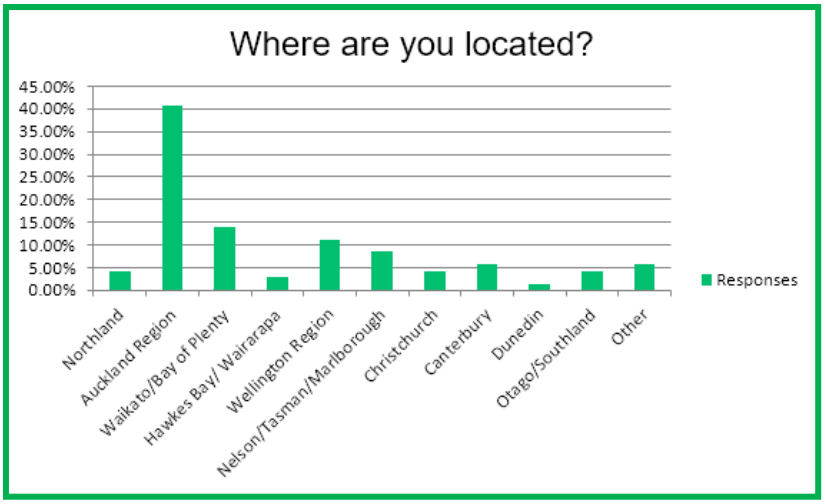
The six seats on the steering committee would be occupied by a representative of the new community forum, the chairs of two existing community groups – Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers Association (KIRRA) and the Pohutukawa Trust – and representatives of council, Department of Conservation and Ngāti Manuhiri.

Finances for the project remained a challenge, council said. In addition to funding from Predator Free 2050 and in-kind support from DOC, council was exploring funding from the Crown and non-government entities. Funds for the wallaby and possum project would need to be in place before the eradication started in financial year 2024/2025, it added.

Source **Localmatters**—Read Original **HERE**

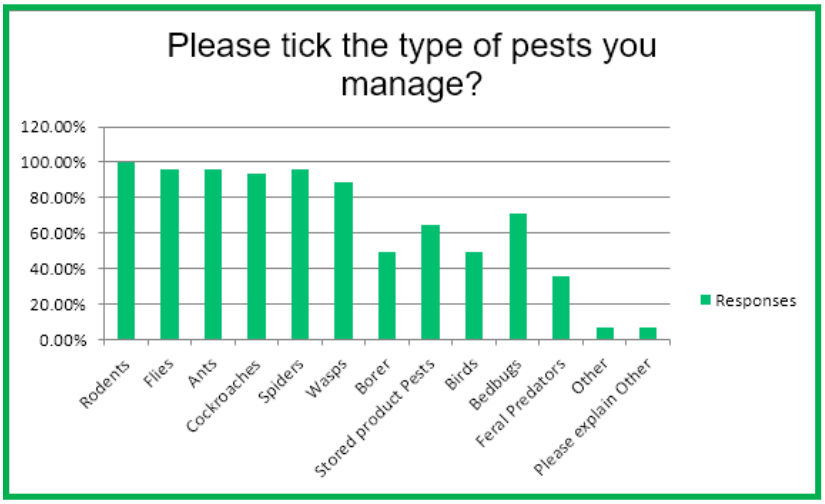
PMANZ Rodent Survey March 2024

There were 73 respondent Pest Managers from around the country, representing a broad spectrum of individual member businesses, providing a reasonably accurate snapshot of rodent activity across New Zealand during the last few months.



Other
Taranaki
Wairoa/Gisborne/Eastcape/Opotiki
Manawatu/Rangitikei
Manawatu
Coromandel
Gulf Harbour
Wairoa to Hicks bay
Taranaki

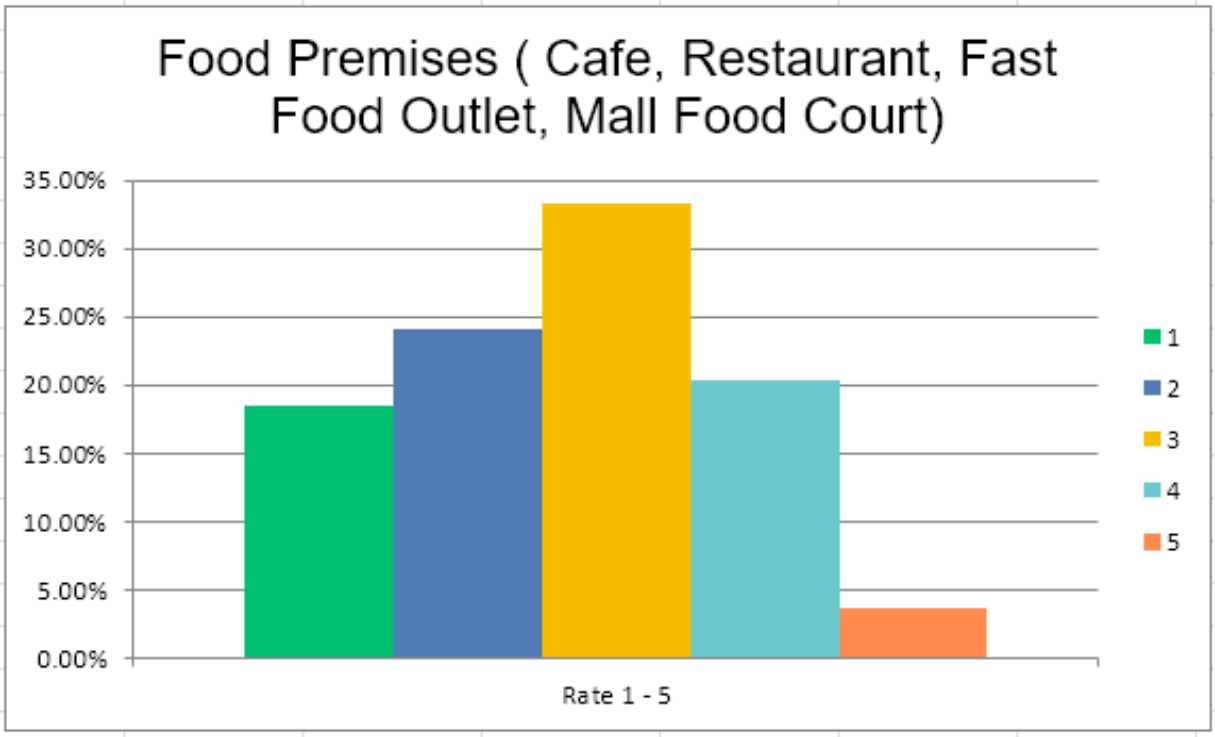
Other
Government
All of the above
fumigation



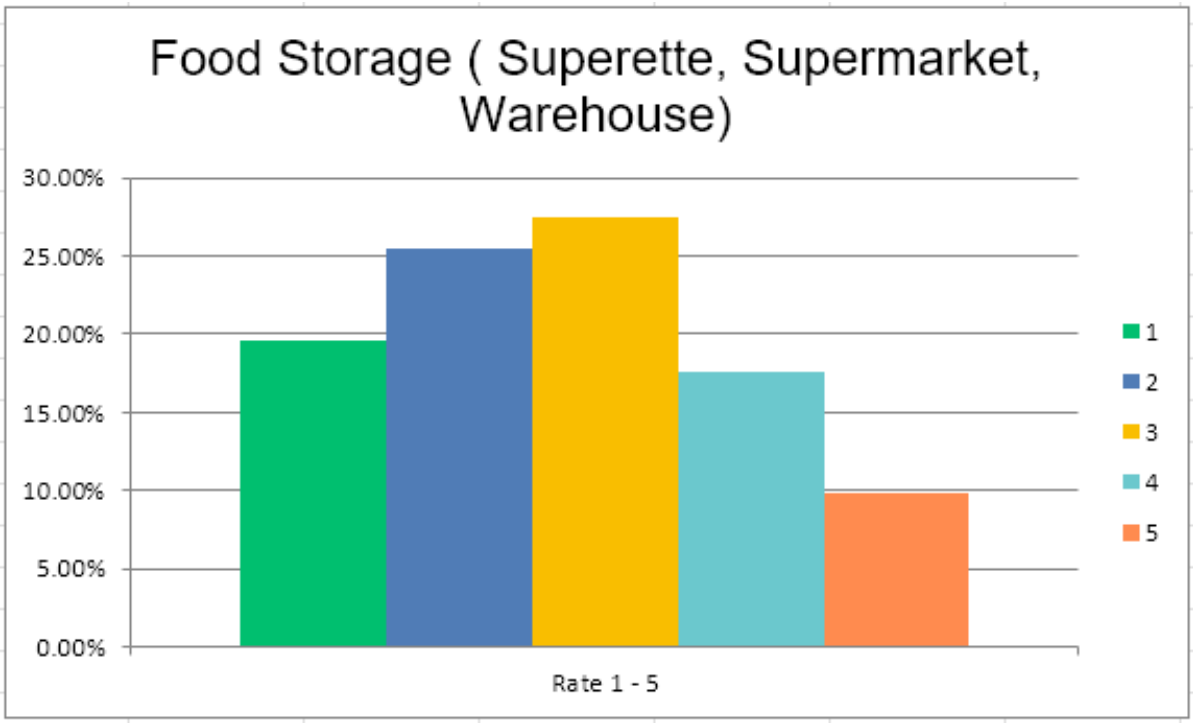
Other
Rabbits
Fleas, carpet beetle
bees
Fleas, carpet beetle, clothes moths, booklice, slaters, sliverfish, mites
Deer pigs goats

Rodent Survey March 2024 continued

Q4. Please rate the level of rodent activity you have experienced over this last three months; being Jan, Feb and March 2024.(1 low activity 5 high activity)



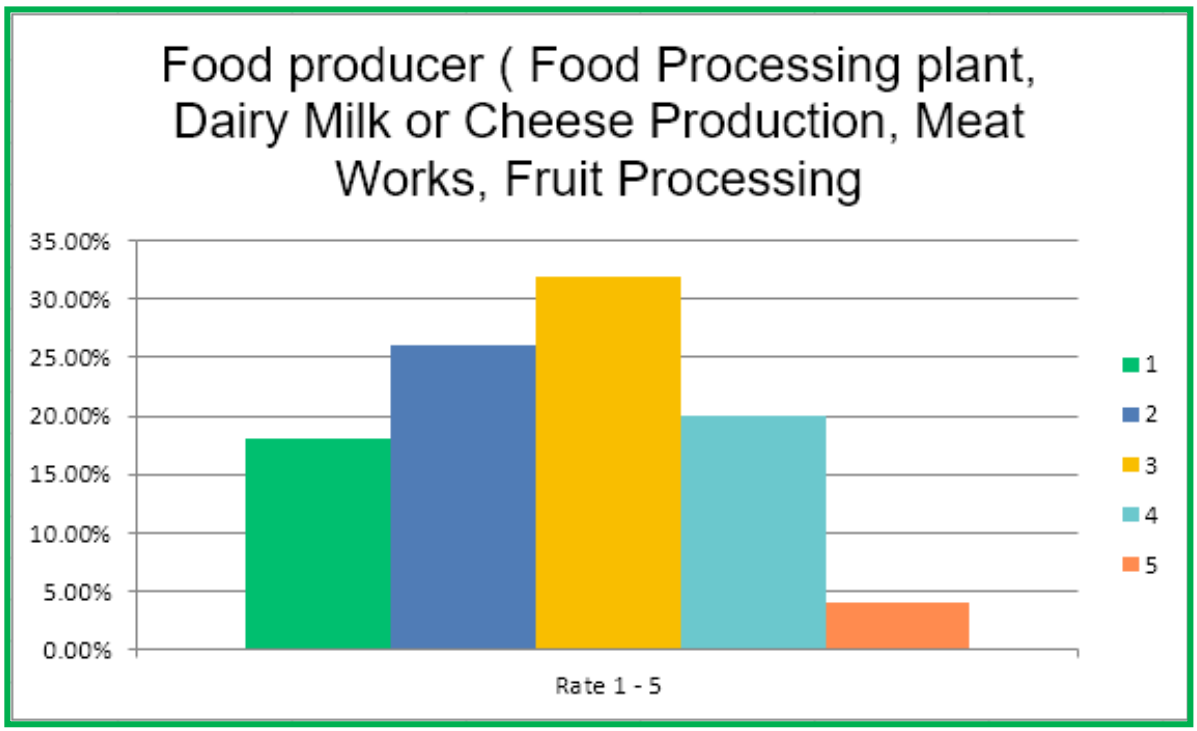
Percentage
18.52%
24.07%
33.33%
20.37%
3.70%



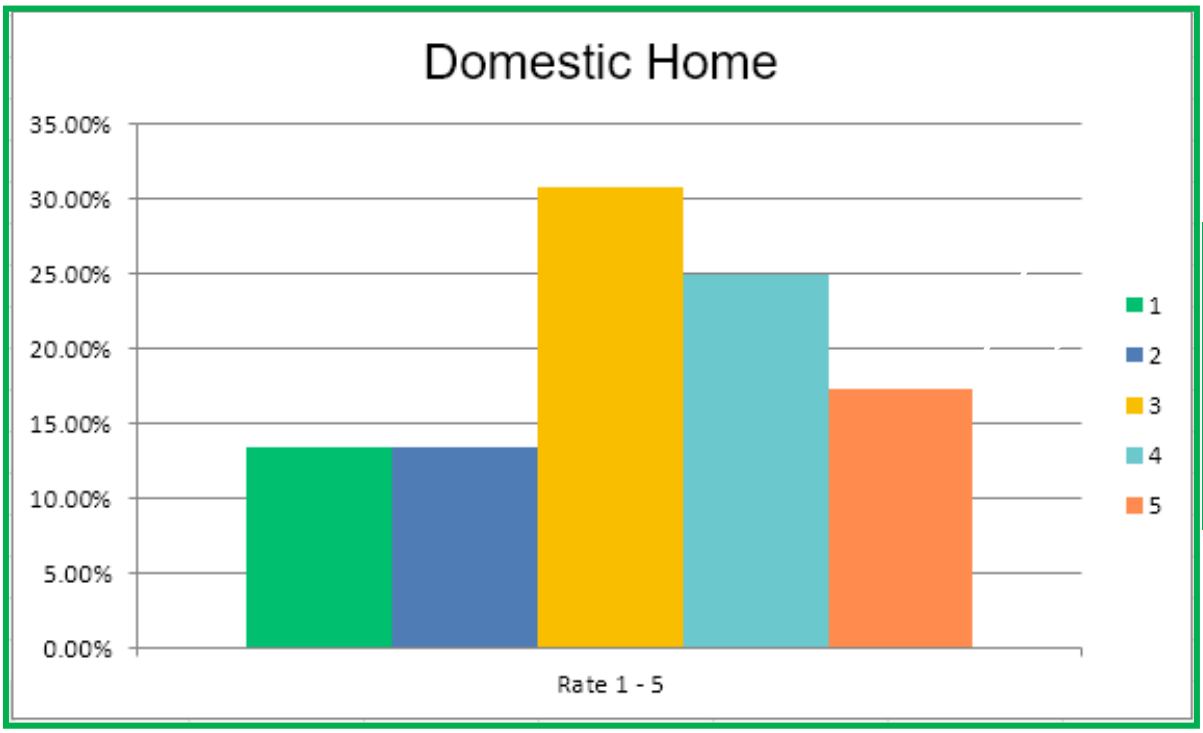
Percentage
19.61%
25.49%
27.45%
17.65%
9.80%

Rodent Survey March 2024 continued

Q4. Please rate the level of rodent activity you have experienced over this last three months; being Jan, Feb and March 2024.(1 low activity 5 high activity)



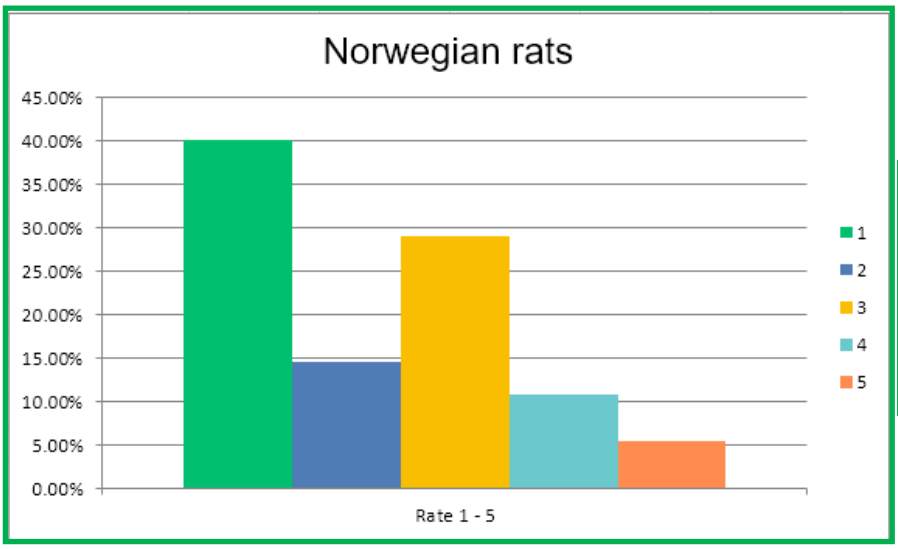
Percentage
18.00%
26.00%
32.00%
17.65%
4.00%



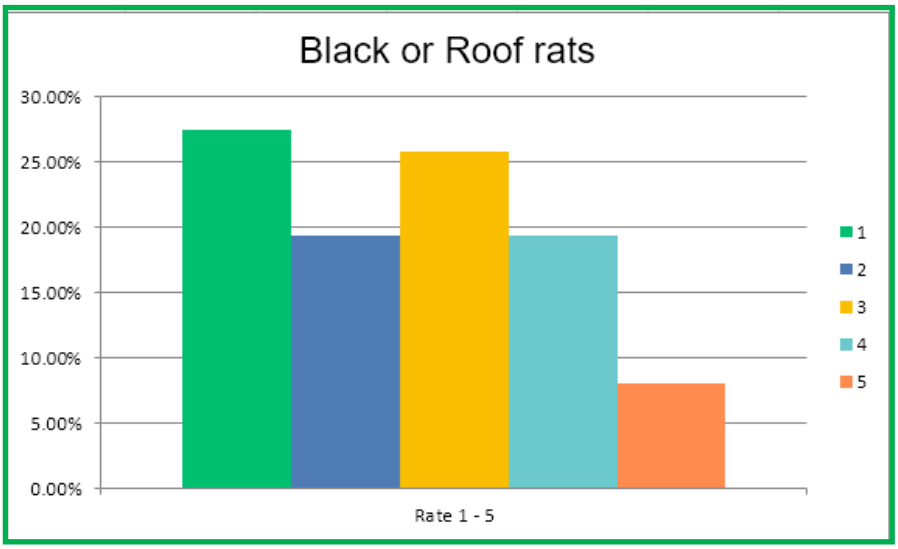
Percentage
13.46%
13.46%
30.77%
25.00%
17.31%

Rodent Survey Continued

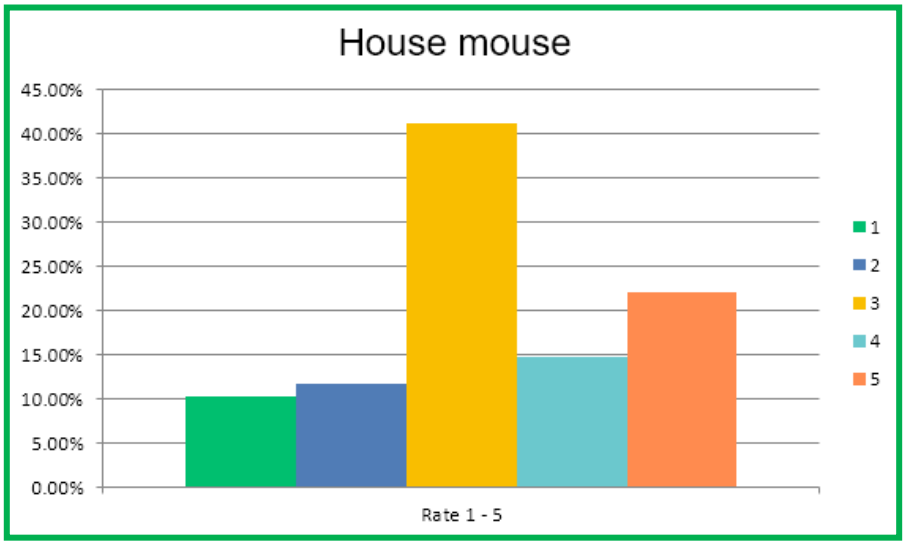
Q5 Please indicate what rodents you have encountered and what level of activity for each(1 being Low activity and 5 being High activity)



Percentage
40.00%
14.55%
29.09%
10.91%
5.45%



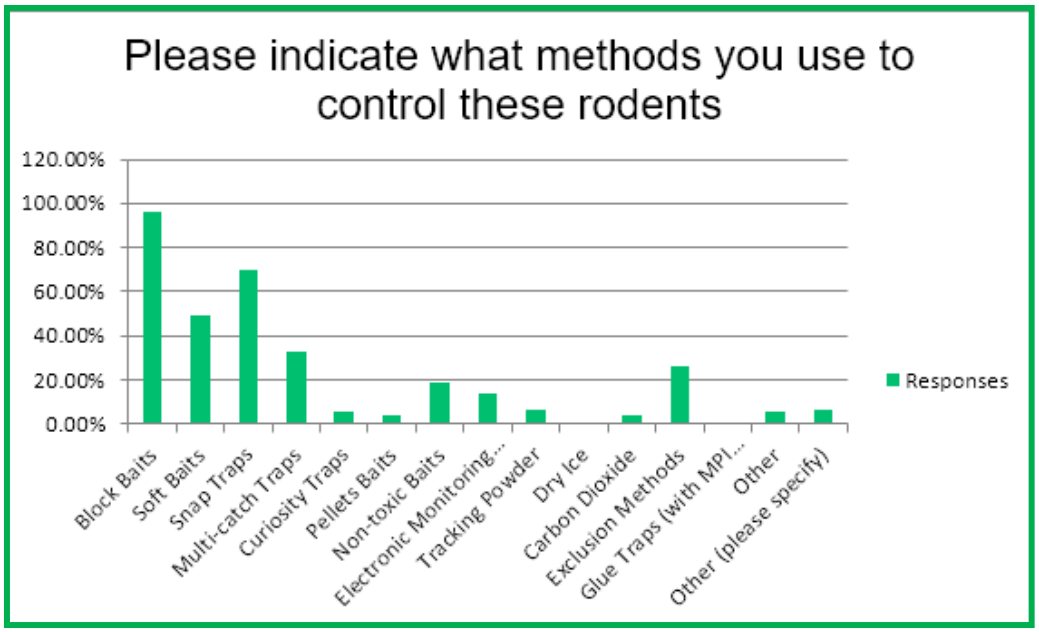
Percentage
27.42%
19.35%
25.81%
19.35%
8.06%



Percentage
10.29%
11.76%
41.18%
14.71%
22.06%

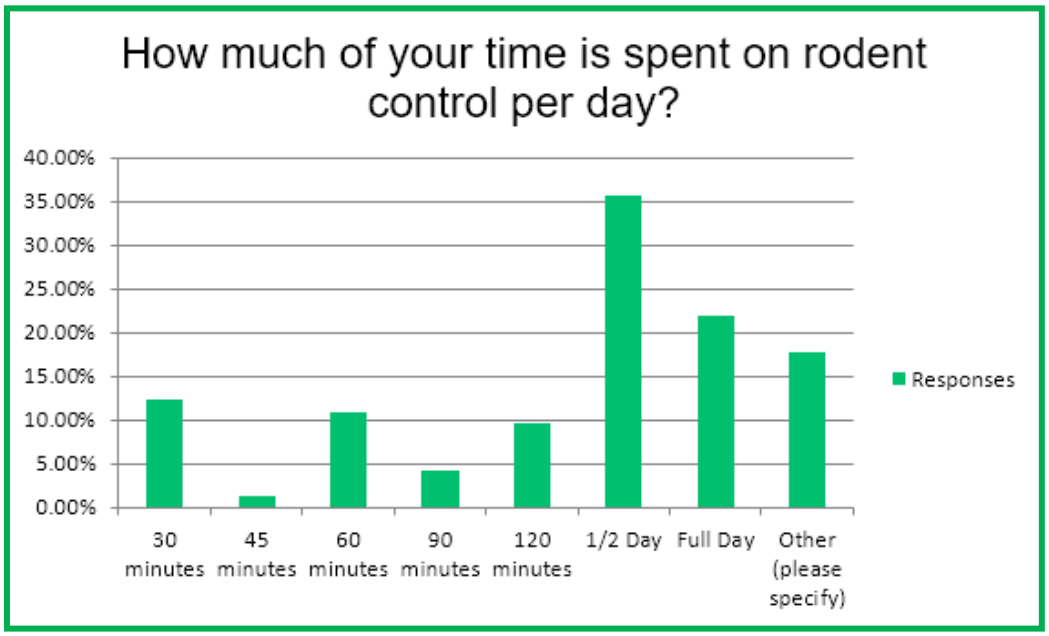
Rodent Survey Continued

Q6 Please indicate what methods you use to control these rodents



Other
Revolver traps
gel baits, attractants
Cat
Rodent Stations
Mandarin peels for roof rats in lemon tree

Q7 How much of your time is spent on rodent control per day?

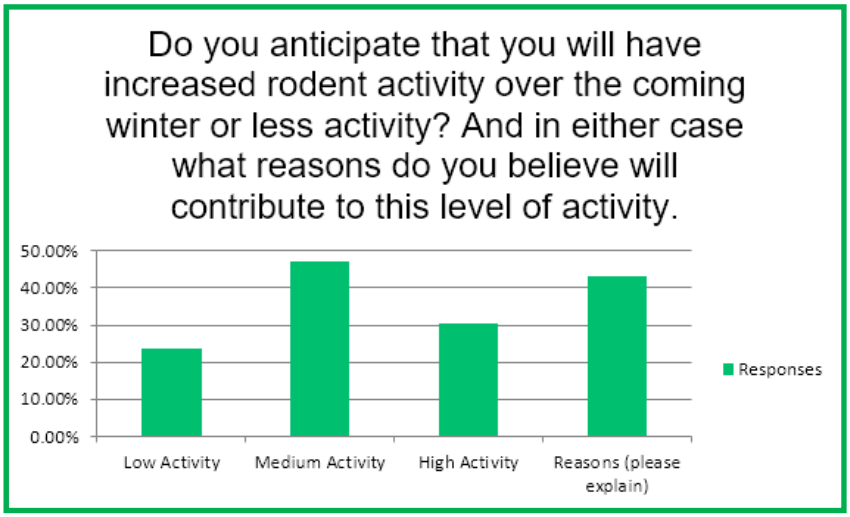


Other
2 hours per week
This is only part time due to other work.
not every day
Average out to around 3 hours
Half a day per week
2-3 hours
Around 45mins a visit then a 2nd visit 3 weeks later to restock stations. Only once or twice a week
Every 3rd day
Some days full day others a couple of hours most days Some days none
7 to 10 days each month
4th week end of month, 7 days.
Hard to answer time varies
Only every other month

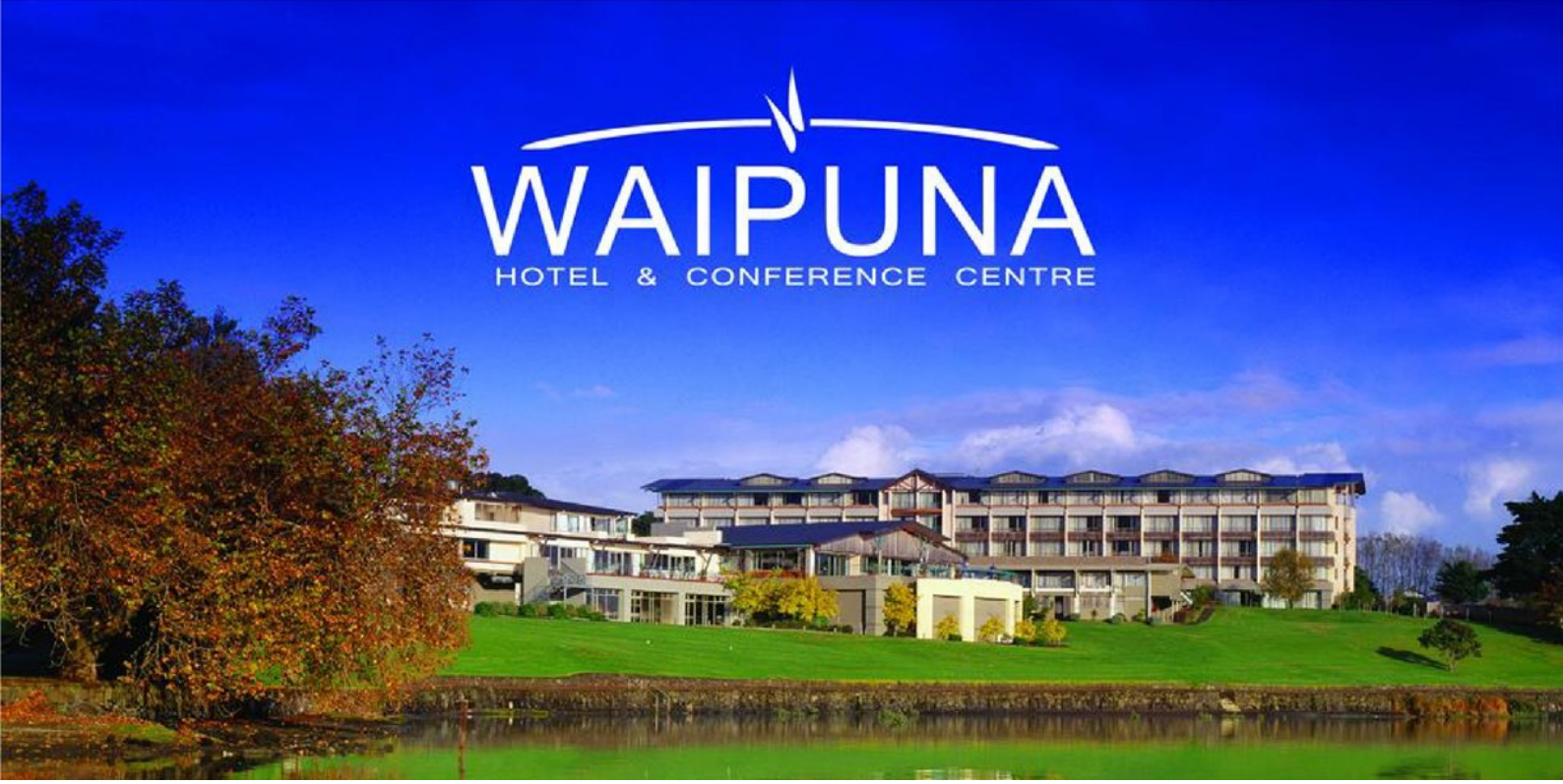
Rodent Survey Continued

Question 8

Low Activity	23.61%
Medium Activity	47.22%
High Activity	30.56%
Reasons (see below)	43.06%



Reasons (please explain)
Cooler weather
New areas of homes have been developed bring the urban areas closer to bush area
Milder winters
Seeing a lot of mouse activity in Taupo
Being winter activity will increase with rodents looking for food and shelter.
Rodent population is all year round not just winter.
Drought has caused early activity
Early jump into the season with high activity.
In winter there is always more activity and this summer particularly the last 3 months there has has been
warm,moist summer - encouraging food growth for rodents
Mild winters last 3 years. Lots of excess food around. El Nino is in so the next few winters should be
Activity Often drops after a high for a month or two
More activity at this time of year than last year
Cooler temperatures.
I rarely have done rodents in a summer period before, feels like the rodent season is 3 to 4 months ahead of itself. I've actually turned away rodent jobs (referred to other companies) due to such a heavy Pest season.
Looking for food and dry harbourage
More but given the summer and lower vegetation harbourage allowing great açess and visibility of other
warmth, food sources lack of adequate control previously implemented, lack of customer understanding
Cooler weather - they look for warmth
Because it can be up and down depending on area weather and environment
Due to long breeding season, anticipating increased number of pests around structures
Weather cooler drives rodents inside
Unsure
Early cold weather
curretly using more bait than last year, 2kg. since cyclones
lots feed over summer, high numbers carry over seasons
Reproduction levels from current populations
Warmer weather, high feed levels, urban sprawl
Having had a good summer I believe there will be more rodents seeking shelter if the winter comes on
Warm summer, mild spring and autumn
Think the warm summer has befitted breeding



PMANZ 2024 Biennial Conference

Where: Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre, Auckland
When: 29th and 30th August 2024

Be there. All are welcome…

See Conference Program HERE To Register Click HERE

PMANZ CONFERENCE 2024

"EMERGING CHALLENGES IN PEST MANAGEMENT"

This conference will focus on the evolving nature of pest management and the new challenges it presents. Discussions will cover the need for adaptive pest control strategies.

Thursday 29th and Friday 30th August 2024.

A walk down Memory Lane

Extracted from PMANZ Newsletter of August 2011

"A pest manager is a person who understands the biology and habits of pests and uses or encourages the customer to use the safest practical measures to prevent or control pests. "

Pest Management Association of New Zealand (PMANZ)

WHAT'S BUZZING?

Volume 4, Issue 03, August 2011

From The President's Pen

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This is my last pen before handing over to your new president Rowan Washer. We say goodbye to Richard Gribble and thank Richard for his term. We have one new Councillor and that is Steve Hunn from the RNZAF. Steve has a lot of experience in public health vector and general pest management and is a UPM assessor. I welcome Steve on board.

Our Pest Management Association is unique in that the membership are all stakeholders and have an equal say - big or small companies, manager or technician. This business is our livelihood whether we own or work for a company and we must control our destiny. As a small voluntary organisation without compulsory registration, we have to prove we are worthy of the confidence of our customers, the public and the legislators. We have to set our own standards and must abide by them. It is a competitive business but we can't compromise on health, safety and environmental care. The technician often works in sensitive situations and must respect the trust placed in them. Keeping in mind "how would this look on camera" could be a good idea.

Just having an approved handlers certificate

Continued on next page 2

Eric Van Essen, the President from 2009—wrote these words back in August 2011. It still remains true today!

He went on to say in his final 'Presidents Pen' the following:

Our Pest Management Association is unique in that the membership are all stakeholders and have an equal say - big or small companies, manager or technician. This business is our livelihood whether we own or work for a company and we must control our destiny. As a small voluntary organisation without compulsory registration, we have to prove we are worthy of the confidence of our customers, the public and the legislators. We have to set our own standards and must abide by them. It is a competitive business but we can't compromise on health, safety and environmental care. The technician often works in sensitive situations and must respect the trust placed in them. Keeping in mind "how would this look on camera" could be a good idea.

A pest is simply a plant or animal in the wrong place at the wrong time. This does not mean we have to take a "scorched earth" approach. Knowing the life cycle of the pest and educating customers and their neighbours can be helpful and can improve your results and credibility.

If there are breeding sites, larval habitat, nests, etc. off property, you may only be able to give temporary respite, as the adults of most pest species are in the mobile and nuisance stages but, they will just keep coming if the source isn't dealt with. This ends up with dissatisfaction of and loss of customers. Encouraging co-operation between neighbouring properties can be a useful strategy and possibly lead to additional work.

In commerce, customers are dependant on the strength of all links in the supply chain. Pests can infest at many stages from raw materials to finished products. All participants in the supply chain must play their part and protect themselves against pests.

Use environmentally responsible and sustainable resources and conserve non-renewable natural resources through efficient use and careful planning such as recycling containers responsibly, minimising waste, repairing and reusing devices.

Review the environmental impact of substances used and make environmental sustainability a key criteria of services. Prudent use of the right product in the right amount in the right place at the right time is vital.

Continuing Professional Development

In our last newsletter we informed PMANZ members of a project to establish a Continuing Professional Development training system for Members. We are pleased to announced the first training modules will go live on the PMANZ website on 4th December!

Initially there are two web based training modules on Ant biology and control, with more to come as we add to the library.

Completing these modules will count towards achieving and maintaining Master Qualified Technician membership status (from April 2024).

To complete the modules members will first need to log in to the PMANZ website using you normal credentials, and then go to:https://pmanz.nz/cpdmodules

At this link you will see four training modules:

1. Click to open into a new window to be viewed like a slide show.
2. Once you have finished viewing the slideshow a link will take you to the CPD Quiz Page.
3. Once at the Quiz Page you will need to open the appropriate quiz and answer a few multi-choice questions based on what you just learned in the module.
4. Successful completion of the quiz's will be recorded on your PMANZ user account.

NOTE: The modules and quizzes can be completed on both desk-top, mobile and tablet devices.

Aside from supporting you with professional development, Paul is able to provide technical support to members on a range of issues.

Paul can be contacted on paul@pmanz.nz

New Website System Updates

The main news on our system developments this month has been the “go live” on the interactive Finder Facility. Along with this, the old-school “Registered Technician by Region” page has now gone.

Just as a reminder, the Finder Facility allows prospective customers to search by pest type, locality and residential/commercial.

BUT….your business will NOT show to customers unless YOU populate your organisation’s account with the necessary information on pest types that you service and areas that you cover. This is all done in the “Finder results” section at the foot of the Edit tab on your organisation’s page. where you will need to select services for each area that your business services.

A lot of members have taken advantage of this facility and their business now shows in results for customers, BUT there are still quite a few who have yet to take the plunge.

Members who have done the work, tell us that this is really only a “five-minute job”, but, if in any doubt, call **David on 0800 476 269** for any help you need.

The ”Finder Facility” allows prospective customers to search by pest type, locality and residential/commercial. The search screen they will use looks like this:

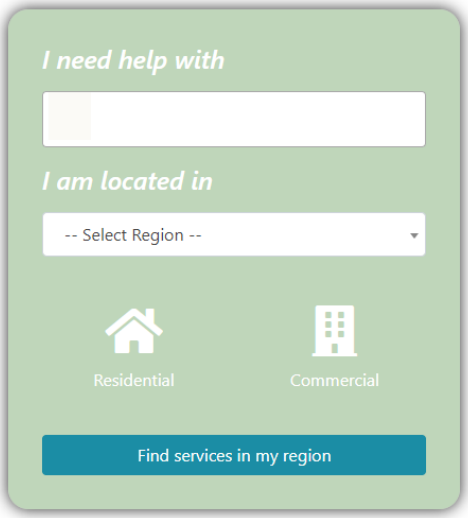
Find A Professional Pest Manager

To find properly qualified pest management in your area, just:

- click on "*I need help with*" to list pests types
- then click for your locality
- and, residential or commercial?
- Finally, click on "*Find services in my region*" to see a list of the businesses in your area who can assist

Click on the suggested results and you'll see all the details you need to help get your pest problem resolved.

If you still have queries, please feel free to call PMANZ on: 0800 476 269



Every PMANZ member has been set up as a user on our new system. If you go to the homepage: https://pmanz.nz/ you will find a button towards the right-hand side to login. Using your email address, you can create a password exclusive to yourself – the system will enable this through a “lost password” process.

Once you have done this, you will have full access to the members’ area and ALSO…

… you will be able to populate your own organisation’s service offering by pest type and locality and to feature when customers come looking!

Don’t forget – for any help you need.

Call David on **0800 476 269** or email him on info@pmanz.nz

Find resources and tips for small business owners to help you look after yourself and your team.

If you're suffering financial-related stress and anxiety, talk to your GP. They'll be able to assess where you're at and refer you to a specialist if necessary.

You can also access trained counsellors for free by texting or **calling 1737**. Find out more at 1737.org.nz:

1737.org.nz(external link)

Other mental health and wellbeing support can be found at Depression.org.nz:

Depression.org.nz(external link)

Sorted has free finance tools, guides and resources on its website:

Sorted.org.nz(external link)

If you want to talk to someone for support around debt or personal budget issues, you can ring the free

Money Talks helpline on 0800 345 123:

Money Talks

Call or text for free support

If you have questions about government financial support or business help, call the COVID-19 Business Helpline:

North Island 0800 500 362 or

South Island 0800 505 096.

If you feel a bit overwhelmed, anxious or just want to talk, free services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
call or text 1737 for support from a trained counsellor

Lifeline 0800 543 354 or text 4357
Samaritans 0800 726 666

Helplines(external link) — Mental Health Foundation

Mental health and wellbeing support

Source Information Provided by:

NEW ZEALAND | BUSINESS. GOVT.NZ

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Take the stress out of tax

TAX TOOLBOX
Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

NEED TAX GUIDANCE

Just click on the illustration to take you to the IRD Tax Toolbox

PMANZ website Statistics

For the two months starting 2024, the PMANZ website received 1956 visitors that viewed 3227 pages - that is an average of 1.7 pages per person. The top page views are listed below. This gives us a great indication of what pest activity is of current concern to the public.

Home	138
Flies	101
Find a Professional	77
Latest newsletter	71
About us	52
Rats	20
Ants	61
Wasps	39
Mice	36
Join us	33
Urban Pest Management Qualifications	21
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NEW ZEALAND TECHNICIANS' FORUM

What is a **MPI Approved Pest Contractor**

A member contacted me in early March to ask what was needed to be a **MPI Approved Pest Contractor**, as she had been told by the customer that this is what was required of them to be able to be their pest service provider.

I thanked the person for making contact and keeping us in the loop.

Firstly, there is **no such thing** as an **MPI Approved Pest Contractor.**

The customer was probably referring to the **MPI Approved Maintenance Compounds Use Categories** for pesticides**.** This is used by all suppliers which includes pesticides.

The latest **Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) - Approved Maintenance Compounds (Non-Dairy) Manual** – See **Section 4.5.9 Pesticides – Page 36,** which list the pesticide Category Types.

Click Link **HERE** to go to the Guidance Document. You can also download it.

Also read **1.1 Scope and application—Page 4,** if you don't know what this is about.

Also here is the link to the actual **Approved Products List**. Click **HERE**

You can check whether you are using MPI approved compounds. Its an alphabetical list by chemical supplier .

In addition, I wrote up a complete article in the **April 2023 Newsletter, page 21** entitled:

"**Understanding MPI Approved Maintenance Compounds (AMC's) (Non-Dairy)"**

You can access it **HERE**

Hope that helps clarify the situation about this topic. If any one has any queries please email me on peter@pmanz.nz

Warm regards

Peter

more than a membership

IT'S A PARTNERSHIP

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Established Pest Control Business - Tauranga, Bay of Plenty Region.
Turn-Key, Strong Client Base - Net Profit $135K

For sale is a well-established Pest Management business servicing Tauranga and surrounding areas in the Bay of Plenty region.

We are husband + wife owners and have been in operation since 2012, and now, as we look towards planning retirement, are ready to pass on our successful business to a new owner.

Turnover of $190K+ and a profit of $135K for Financial Year 2024 demonstrating a proven track record of financial success and stability.

This turn-key business would suit a licensed Pest Management operator or an existing pest management business looking to expand into the Bay of Plenty region.

With steady profits throughout the year there are excellent opportunities for expanding the business beyond its current parameters.

The business is located in Tauranga and is a mobile operation offering flexibility.

Two websites with strong domain names, provide a good online presence for the business delivering Insect and Rodent Control services.

Included in the sale - vehicle, stock and equipment at valuation.

Sign-written VOLKSWAGEN T5 2012.

- No franchise fees.
- Large client base with regular clientele for servicing.
- 90% Domestic and 10% Commercial

Genuine buyers only please.

Please contact Wendy Cramp on 022 3115264 or email : cramp.k@xtra.co.nz

Technical Hints: Courtesy of LIPHATECH

UNDERSTANDING RODENT BIOLOGY: THE NORWAY RAT (RATTUS NORVEGICUS)

When professional pest managers delve deeply into rodent biology and behaviour, it becomes easier to accurately identify pest species and use best practice management strategies, which serve to enhance rodent control outcomes.

Here we take a closer look at one particular pest rodent species: the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), also known as the brown rat, sewer rat, wharf rat, water rat, street rat, and Norwegian rat.

Pest status: The Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) is among the most ubiquitous of rodents. It lives in close proximity to humans, seemingly having an unrestricted capacity to reproduce. It is the cause of extensive economic damage to ecosystems, farms, industrial properties and households by contaminating food supplies and spreading disease.

Key behaviour: Norway rats are generally nocturnal, often active around dusk and pre-dawn, when they tend to their nests, dig burrows, and hunt for food. The Norway rat, commonly known as a 'water rat', may be seen in locations near water and is a proficient swimmer. Norway rats typically have a complex network of underground tunnels with multiple entry and exit holes for escape, often hidden under grass, rubbish, and other debris. Being extremely sociable animals, they create groups that are maintained according to a dominance hierarchy. Members of the group are frequently quite hostile towards strangers. Each group is led by a dominant male who may mate with numerous females and occupies the best parts of the group's territory. These societies frequently engage in collective nursing, when females assist in caring for the young of another female. Some females, meanwhile, have exclusive nesting burrows of their own.

Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Norway rat droppings are around 15 mm in size, with blunt edges

Quick Facts

Identification: Large size rodent with a blunt nose, small eyes, and close set small ears

Weight: 250-400 g

Body length (head and body): 19-26 cm

Total length, including tail: 45 cm

Sexual maturity: Reached in 2-3 months

Gestation period: 23 days

Number per litter: 6-12

Number of litters: 4-7 per year

Daily food intake: 30 g

Life span: 18 months

Droppings: Around 15 mm, with blunt edges

Inspection tips: When conducting a site inspection, it's important to look for the signs of their presence. Look for burrow entrances and traffic routes in the landscape, such as along pipes, ledges, and inside roof voids. The areas they frequent can be identified by rub marks (caused by grease and dirt from their bodies), footprints (running tracks), damage (gnaw marks), droppings or nests.

Did you know?

The tail of the Norway rat is shorter than its head and body combined.

Gaining control: It's crucial to identify the signs of the rodents' presence and place bait stations or traps in these traffic routes and locations. For areas of high infestation, bait stations must be inspected frequently to ensure bait supply is maintained in all stations until the rodent population is under control.

Preferred food: Norway rats prefer fish, meat, grains and high protein foods.

Recommended baits: Norway rats are creatures of habit and display neophobic behaviour towards new objects. If they eat something they dislike, Norway rats will quickly develop an aversion to that food and search for an alternative option. Once they find a favourable food source, Norway rats will return time and again.

This is one of the reasons why **Liphatech** developed and drove the innovation into soft bait formulations. Difethialone, discovered by Liphatech, has superior efficacy on both rats and mice and is available in First Strike Soft Bait, which is a mixture of milled grain and vegetable oil which has no wax and is highly palatable. It is also easy to use, making it a good choice for challenging Norway rat jobs. Those who prefer a more traditional bait can opt for Generation Block, which also contains difethialone, in a 15 g punchy extruded block bait form. Liphatech recommends rotating rodent baits for best practice.

Liphatech also offers a range of bromadiolone baits in both soft and block form and hardware products suitable for use on Norway rats.

LIPHATECH