

# RAT - Rattus Norvegicus

## NORWAY, COMMON BROWN OR SEWER RAT

**RATTUS NORVEGICUS** is by far the most exuberantly successful survivor form among all the world's rat species. In spite of centuries of conflict with man and numerous other predators he continues to adapt and survive.

**RATTUS RATTUS** (Black Rat) ship rat is a major ship pest, he is not however as competitive as **NORVEGICUS**. Omnivorous with a strong preference for fruit and vegetables.



- Females are sexually mature at 3 months
- Gestation period is 3 weeks. The doe will often re-mate within 24 hours of birthing.
- Producing up to 7 litters per year (6-12 young in each). Average life span is 1 year.
- Approximate number of young produced by one pair and their offspring:  
Year 1 is about 200. Assuming 50% female.  
Year 2 would see  $100 \times 200 = 20,000$   
Year 3 would see  $10,000 \times 200 = 2,000,000$
- Naturally the attrition rate is astronomical.
- Rodents are a vital part of the food chain and have many predators: Stoats, Weasels, Cats and also their own species. Some species of rats are cannibalistic.
- Rats are carriers of Smallpox, Salmonella, Typhus and a host of other fevers and diseases.
- Over 500 species of rats are recorded worldwide.
- Rats can jump 1 metre vertically and 1.5 metres horizontally.
- Rodent incisors (two up, two down) grow up to 13cm per year necessitating continual gnawing.
- Tail is longer than bodies and serve magnificently as a fifth leg and for balance.

- Rats serving as host carriers of the Oriental Rat Flea ( *Xenopsylla Cheopis* ) were responsible for the spread of Bubonic Plague (Black Death ) throughout Europe / Asia in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century resulting in the deaths of over 25% of the European population alone.
- Rats can exist for long period of time without water by eating insects, fish, fruit and eggs or any food with adequate moisture content.
- *Rattus Norvegicus* is not a native of New Zealand.

***Rattus Norvegicus is primarily omnivorous, secondarily carnivorous, and sometimes cannibalistic.***

**MICE ( *Mus Musculus* )** gestation period is 21 days. Litters vary from 4-16 young per litter. 7-8 litters per year. Average life span is 6-12 months. Maximum progeny potential from one pair and their offspring:

Year 1 would be about 2,000

Year 2  $1,000 \text{ pair} \times 2,000 = 2,000,000$

Fortunately, (as with rats) they have many enemies and predators and their reproduction is well regulated by the available food supply.

# **Elite**

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# PEST CONTROL

[www.elitepestcontrol.co.nz](http://www.elitepestcontrol.co.nz)

## **Preparation for Rodent Control Treatment**

**Make sure that all food that is not in a can or jar is stored in the refrigerator or heavy plastic container for at least two weeks following service. This includes chips, lollies, nuts, cereals, breads, any grain-based food, pet foods, etc., that are normally stored in upper or lower cabinets, on counter tops, or on top of the refrigerator. Although usually bagged, rodents can chew right through plastic bags to get to foods.**

1. Homeowners should repair any holes in walls, around baseboards, or doors that don't seal properly; tenants should report these to property management for repair. (Mice can enter through gaps as small as 1/4 inch and rats through holes as small as 1/2 inch in diameter.)
2. Remove all items from the top of the refrigerator and from directly underneath the kitchen sink to allow access to these areas.
3. When your Technician arrives, discuss the situation with him or her, making note of areas where rodents or signs of rodents have been seen.
4. Your Technician may be setting and placing a variety of baits and traps. These should not be touched or disturbed during or after the service.
5. For ongoing control, clean, sweep and vacuum the home regularly. Take out trash on a regular basis, keep lids on trash cans, and keep area as clean as possible.
6. Eliminate any unnecessary storage including boxes, paper, and clothing as rodents (and other pests) will take shelter here, gnaw the items to make their nests, and even breed in such undisturbed areas.