

“One of the simple but genuine pleasures in life is getting up in the morning and hurrying to a mousetrap you set the night before” (Kin Hubbard 1868– 1930)



Introduction

Rodents are the largest group of mammals in the world. Most are not happy living with man, however some feel very much at home with man.

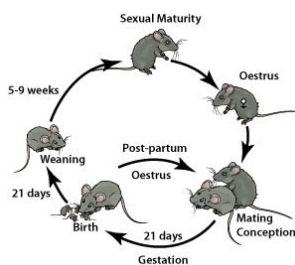
These are called ‘Commensal’ rodents; the literal translation being ‘eating off the same table.’

The commensal rodents of importance in New Zealand are:

Rattus norvegicus– Norway or Brown Rat

Rattus rattus– Roof or black rat

Mus domesticus– House mouse



Characteristics

Norway Rat

The tail of the Norway rat is shorter than the combined length of the head and body; their average weight is 340g. Their average life span is 6-12 months and they can have up to 7 litters with 8-12 young per litter. Brown rats will live indoors and outdoors in rural or urban environments. Brown rats have a need for water so their burrow will always be close to water and a food source - their preferred food is cereal! Norway rats are usually found in groups – so if you see one there’s likely to be more!

Roof Rat

The roof rat is also known as the black rat. The black rat has a dark brown or black body and is white underneath. They have an average weight of 300g. Like the Norway Rat the average life span is only 6 to 12 months. During their life span they can have up to 6 litters of 6-10 young each time.

The roof rat’s droppings are pointed with an average length of 1.5cms. If you see droppings this is a sure sign that you have an infestation.

House Mouse

House mice are brownish grey in colour and on average weigh 20g.

House mice tend to eat small amounts of food from a large number of sites therefore can quickly cause widespread damage.



Signs of an infestation

Signs include:

- Holes about 8cm in diameter (rats) and 2cm (mice). These are entrances to their nests.
- Tooth marks in food packaging and building materials.
- If grain has been chewed from the centre this is the sign of a mouse.
- If grain has debris left or half is left this can be the sign of a rat.
- Droppings are also a clear sign.
- Urine stains
- Hairs
- Odour – this will be a musty smell.

Damage Caused

Rats and mice can damage both growing crops and stored food. Virtually all food packing material is vulnerable to rodent attack.

Rats and mice often spoil more food than they eat through disposing of part eaten product or contamination with urine and faeces.

Rodents will also gnaw through electric wiring causing a fire risk.

Rats and mice carry numerous diseases including leptospirosis (Weil’s disease) and salmonella.

Genus

“A Kiwi company understanding Kiwi problems.”

So what can Genus do about them?

The control and management strategy we employ will depend on the individual problem.

We will carry out a full survey and recommend to you a programme to suit the needs of the site, and what you can do to help us manage the problem.

GRIP

If we are faced with an established population we will need to get a GRIP of the problem.

GRIP-

Genus

Riddance

Programme

GRIP is an intensive programme, often over a number of weeks, where techniques are used to bring the population down to manageable levels.

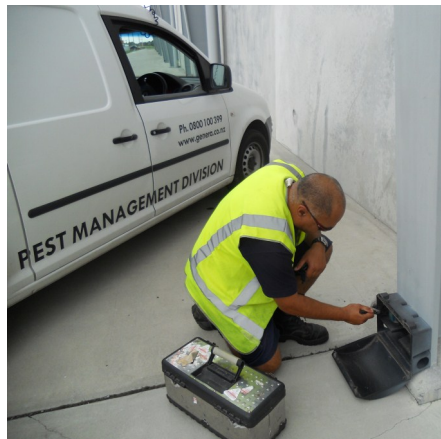
GRIP includes addressing the causes of the problem e.g. food sources, harbourages, proofing defects.



Monitoring

Once we have a GRIP on the situation we can put in place a regular monitoring and management programme to keep the population in check. If our survey shows a riddance programme is not necessary we can move straight to a monitoring programme.

The programme may include toxic or non toxic solutions and will be created around your needs.



Facts

- Mice can jump vertically up to 12 inches
- According to the records the oldest rats lived for over seven years
- Mice do not have bladders!
- Rats can fit through a thumb sized hole, and mice can fit through a finger sized hole
- The plague was not caused by rats but by the fleas on the rats

Other treatments and solutions from Genus

- Spiders
- Flies
- Cockroaches
- Ants
- Bird prevention
- Stored product pests
- Bed Bugs
- Heat treatment
- Fumigation

Please call us to discuss all your pest management needs.

“Don’t forget Prevention is better than the Cure.”



Trust Genus for all of your Pest Management needs.