

For More Information Contact

wildlifecontrol@sPCA.bc.ca
BC SPCA Provincial Call Centre
1.855.622.7722

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

MICE & RATS

WILDLIFE CONTROL BEST PRACTICES

Species

Commensal rodents – House mouse (*Mus musculus*), Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), Roof rat (*Rattus rattus*)

Legal Designation

Not considered wildlife

Disease Risks

Can carry and transmit diseases. Native deer mice are most common carriers of *hantavirus*



Did you know?

Rodents are social, curious and shy. They make a wide variety of noises to communicate, and rats will take care of sick or injured rats in their group.

House mouse

Common Conflicts

Commensal rodents come into conflict with people when they contaminate stored food with droppings, nest in structures, gnaw on wires, insulation, or wood, and burrow in yards. Commensal rodents are named for their close association to people, and reliance on them for food and shelter. Because they can carry and transmit diseases, rodents are a health and safety concern where people live, work or visit.

Mice are particularly attracted to seeds, grains and nuts. Rats are omnivorous, and eat a wide variety of plant and animal matter.

Call an **AnimalKind** accredited pest control company if you need help managing mice or rats

Visit www.animalkind.ca for more information



Conflict Prevention

Rodents are drawn to areas with abundant food and shelter, and will continue to return to these areas as long as food and shelter are available. Remove potential food sources by: securing garbage bins and composts; quickly cleaning up spilled food, waste, crumbs, etc.; storing food in rodent-proof containers; and not leaving pet food outside or allowing bird feeders to overflow.

Seal gaps larger than a dime (mice) or a quarter (rats) with heavy gauge screening or 0.5 cm hardware cloth or metal mesh. Remove wood and brush piles, and trim plants back from foundations. To check if a rat burrow is in use, loosely cover the hole with leaves, newspaper or straw – if present, a rat can easily push the material away and re-open the hole. The material should remain undisturbed for two to three nights before closing the hole.



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Norway rat



RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

For incidents with few animals, one-way doors, cage traps or other live traps can be used to remove animals and release them immediately outside. Note that if food and building management problems are not addressed, the rodents will simply return.

Due to human health and safety risks, lethal control is sometimes necessary. Traps and poisons should always be in locked and secured bait boxes that are inaccessible to pets, wildlife, and children. Snap traps should be appropriately-sized and strong enough to kill quickly; generally these will need to be purchased from a pest control distributor. Captive bolt traps can also be used. Rodenticides should only be used as a last resort, with a defined end point, to manage an infestation – these are not ideal because they cause a slow death and can poison owls, hawks, and other wildlife that eat rodents. Consult the AnimalKind standards online at www.animalkind.ca for recommended rodenticides.

Glue traps



Glue traps are legal and widely used, but they are inhumane, can accidentally catch many other types of animals, and should not be used to kill, though they are one of few options in commercial food facilities. Glue traps should only be used by professionals because homeowners will not have an acceptable method to kill animals found alive on the traps.



NOT RECOMMENDED

Actions & methods for control

The methods below are legal, regulated methods for controlling rodents or for euthanasia when animals are trapped or injured, but they are not recommended as they can cause suffering, may be high risk to non-target animals, and/or are difficult to administer. Check local bylaws and/or regulations to confirm whether the method is legal in a municipality.

- Glue traps
- Blunt force trauma
- Carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide
- Cervical dislocation
- Decapitation
- Electrocuting traps
- Non-lethal multi-catch (e.g. Ketch-all) and disposable killing traps that can't be opened to confirm animal death



ILLEGAL

Actions & methods for control

- Chloroform
- Drowning
- Suffocation
- Freezing
- Vehicle exhaust
- Electrocuting (with the exception of legally distributed traps)