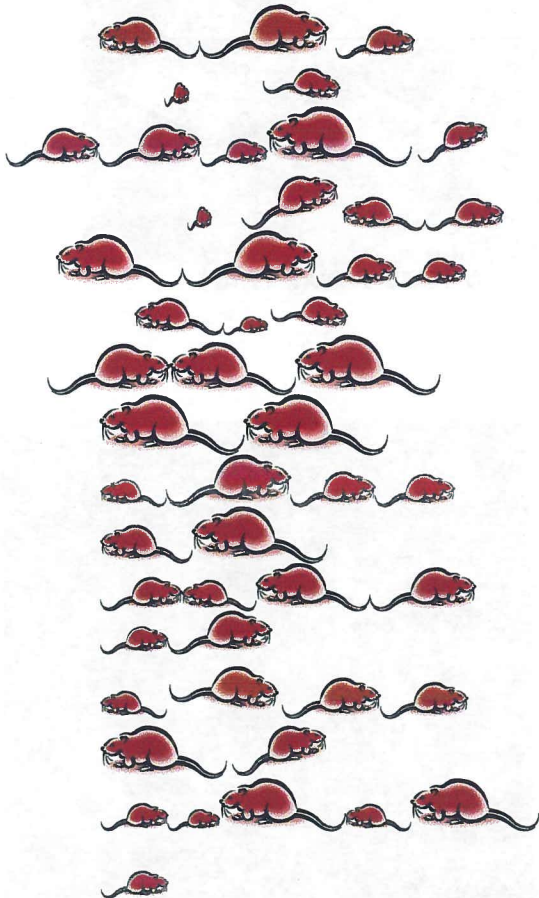


One mother rat can produce 50 young.
It is important to take action quickly!



Quick Rat Facts

- Norway rats are brown rodents
- 13-18 inches long, including the tail
- Bear 6-12 young 4-6 times a year
- Rats are good swimmers
- Most rats live only one year
- Live within 150' of their home
- Squeeze through a ½" hole
- Good climbers and jumpers



RAT LEAVING BURROW

Lake County General Health District
Environmental Health Services
5966 Heisley Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060
(440) 350-2543
www.lcghd.org

RATS

A Homeowner's Guide



Rats are destructive,
may spread disease,
and will contaminate
human and pet food

Lake County
General Health District



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Where do rats live?

- Near food, water and shelter
- Under wood or lumber piles
- In bushes, vines and tall grass
- Under rocks or landscaping features
- In unused lawn furniture
- Around trash and garbage
- In or under sheds and garages



NEST OF BABY RATS

What food brings rats to my yard?

- Improperly stored garbage
- Storing unclean recyclables
- Animal food stored improperly
- Bird feeders
- Dog and cat food bowls outside
- Fruit and vegetables on the ground
- Improperly managed compost piles
- Dog droppings
- Ponds, fountains and water hoses



NORWAY RAT

What can I do to make my yard less attractive to rats?

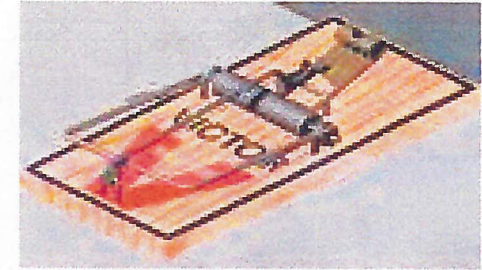
- Stack firewood 18" off the ground
- Stop feeding birds
- Keep bushes trimmed
- Remove dog droppings daily
- Get rid of clutter in the yard
- Do not leave pet food outside
- Do not compost meat or dairy products
- Store garbage in cans with lids
- Clean recyclables before storing
- Remove water sources
- Install sweeps on garage doors



RAT BURROW ALONG FENCE

How do I eliminate rats?

- Purchase several wooden snap traps
- Bait with apple, bacon or peanut butter
- Bait trap but do not set for a few days
- Place trap in areas where rats are seen
- Continue to trap until no rats are caught
- Homeowner use of poison discouraged
- Contact a professional for poison use



WOODEN SNAP TRAP

What should I do if I see rats?

TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

- Notify your community administrative offices
- Contact the Lake County General Health District at (440) 350-2543
- Clean yard and remove food sources
- Set snap traps to kill rats