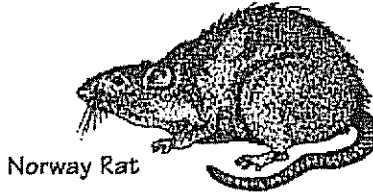


Roof Rat



Norway Rat

RAT PREVENTION TIPS

TYPES OF RATS:

There are two types of rats that create a nuisance in Solano County, the Roof Rat and the Norway Rat. The **Roof rat**, also known as the black rat or tree rat, is slender and agile and the tail is longer than the body. Roof rats will climb shrubs, trees, and buildings and will enter a building given an opportunity. Roof rats often use utility lines and fences for runways. They nest in old wood piles, furniture and sheds and prefer to feed on fruits, nuts, ivy, and pet food commonly found in residential areas. The **Norway rat**, also known as brown rat or sewer rat, is larger than the roof rat and its tail is shorter than its body. Norway rats usually live in underground burrows and seldom climb trees or buildings. The Norway rat commonly feeds on garbage, pet food, and unharvested fruits, nuts and vegetables.

Signs of Infestation:

- Observation of droppings: droppings are one half inch long and pointed at both ends. They are found near the nest, along runways, and in resting sites.
- Damaged fruits or nuts: fruits or citrus on lower branches of tree with signs of gnawing. Broken and damaged nuts on the ground.
- Snail shells: piles of empty snail shells under bushes or near resting and nest sites.
- Gnawing: signs of gnawing or irregular holes in plastic, wood or rubber materials.
- Sounds in attic or subfloor: nocturnal gnawing or sounds of movement.
- Greasy rub marks: dark stains caused by the rat's oily fur coming in repeated contact with painted surfaces or wooden beams.
- Visual observation: if you see one, there are probably more.

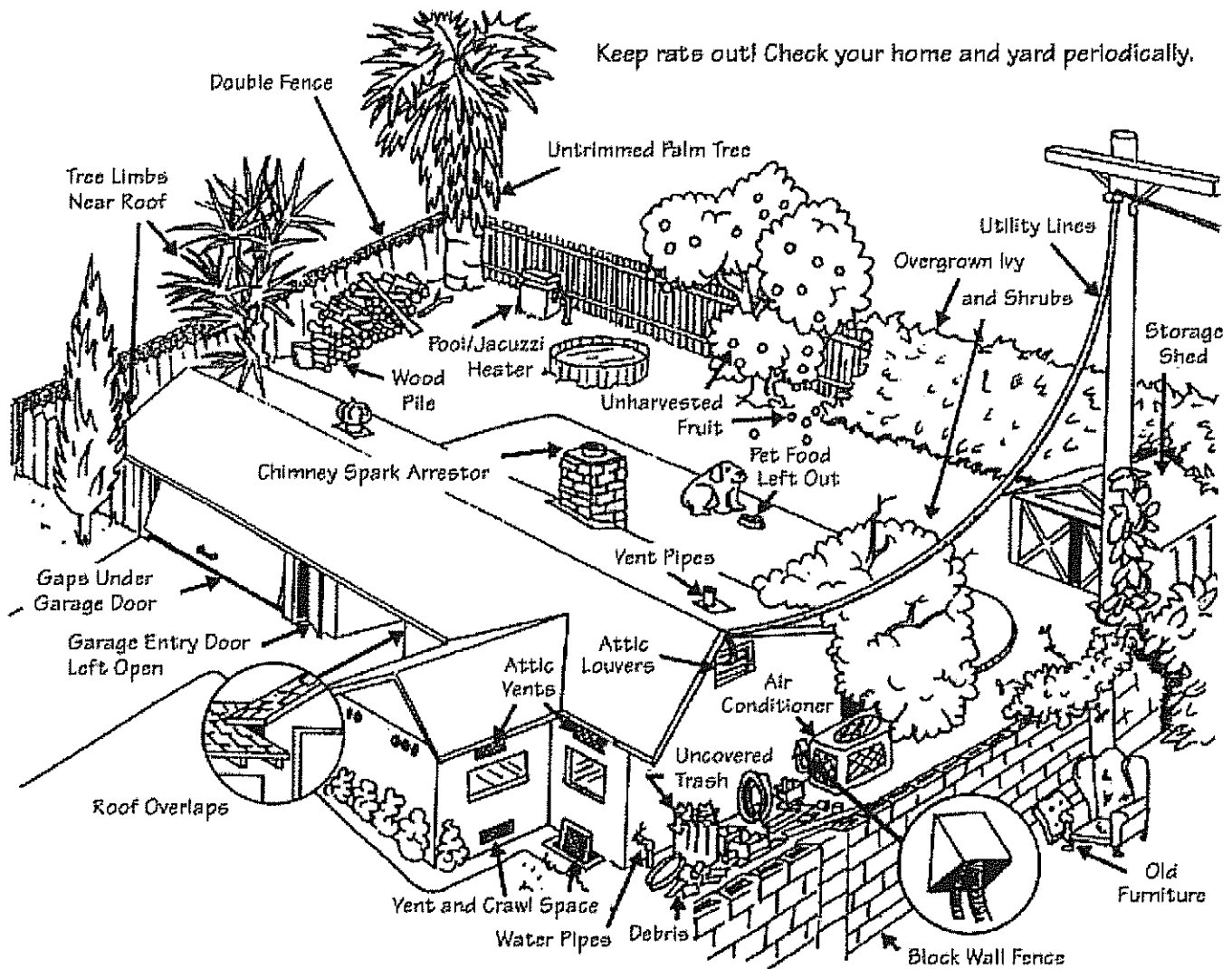
Rat Prevention:

Rats can be discouraged from inhabiting an area by eliminating the food, water, and shelter available to rats.

- Don't feed rats:
 - Feed pets in the morning and not more than they can eat during the day. Do not leave pet food out overnight.
 - Store pet food and animal feed in sealed metal containers.
 - Place all garbage in rodent proof containers and keep the garbage can lids tightly covered. Do not allow accumulation of loose garbage, or store garbage in plastic or paper bags outside.
 - Pick up fallen fruits and nuts.
- Don't give rats water:
 - Repair leaky faucets.
- Don't give rats a home:
 - In your yard
 - Keep junk and debris cleared from yard.
 - Store firewood and lumber away from walls and 18" off the ground.
 - Keep yards free from overgrown brush, weeds and tall grass. Avoid planting juniper or ivy and keep plants away from walls.
 - In your house
 - Seal all possible access points (holes/cracks greater than 1/2") in walls, roofing, garage doors, utility vaults, spa heater and pump houses, utility sheds, pipe/wall junctures, etc.
 - Repair or replace damaged vent screens on foundation and eaves.

DON'T INVITE RATS ONTO YOUR PROPERTY!

Keep rats out! Check your home and yard periodically.



Solano County Department of Resource Management
Environmental Health Services Division
675 Texas Street, Suite 5500
Fairfield, CA 94533

Telephone: (707) 784-6765

www.solanocounty.com