

## RODENT CONTROL

### SUCCESSFUL RODENT CONTROL REQUIRES CITY, RESIDENT COOPERATION

The presence of the following are nothing new:

- Chipmunks
- Mice
- Rats
- Skunks
- Other Vermin

They share our space and have always been around - sometimes more widespread and visible, sometimes less.

### NEEDS

To thrive, these rodents need two things available to them:

- Shelter
- A source of food and water

### FOOD & WATER

Rats and Vermin feed on the following:

- Pet food left outside or made accessible in a garage or shed.
- Pet waste - yes, pet waste left in the yard is a significant food source for rats.

Much of the food put out for the "friends" residents enjoy, winds up feeding rats and vermin such as:

- Bird Feeders
- Bread
- Peanuts
- Popcorn
- Squirrel Food, etc.
- Home vegetable gardens and fallen, rotten fruit.
- Household trash put out overnight in bags. (Instead, use secure trash cans with lids.)
- Stagnant pools, decorative fountains or ponds provide a water source.

### SHELTER

Rats and vermin will make a home in:

- Debris, wood piles on the ground, trash, tires, building materials. (Keep wood and building materials at least 12 inches off the ground.)
  - Accessory buildings or garages or slabs without rat wall protection - they can burrow under the slab and create a rat or vermin "hotel."
  - Skirted decks and decks low to the ground - while they may be attractive, these decks can also provide living space for critters.
  - Holes in your foundation, home, garage or shed. (Seal any hole more than ½ inch.)
  - Weeds around exterior of houses, sheds, garages, etc. (Keep a 3-foot perimeter clear.)
- Take away the food and shelter and the rats and vermin will not come around.

## INFESTATION

If there is an infestation, baiting and trapping or professional exterminators must be utilized - you do not want the vermin to go elsewhere. Homeowners are responsible for this clean up. Call Ordinance Enforcement for further information or if you wish to report a problem at (734) 466-2588.