

# Fact Sheet

## Rats and Mice

All owners and occupiers must take reasonable steps to prevent introduced rats and mice (vermin) from harbouring on their property. Vermin can pose a serious health risk through the transmission of disease and cause damage to buildings and equipment. This factsheet can help you prevent and control vermin and meet your legal requirements.

### The Law

Queensland's *Public Health Act 2005* includes rats and mice (designated pests) as a public health risk and Council is legally required to regulate these matters. If you are providing harbourage, allowing breeding or a source of food for a designated pest, Council will require you to take measures to prevent or reduce the risk. Council may issue fines if you fail to comply with the legislation.

### Ways to prevent vermin harbourage

#### Vermin proofing

Secure all entry points to your premises as far as practicable.

#### Trim vegetation

Remove any plant or tree branches away from roofs and external walls of buildings and from overhead cables.

#### Tidy up yard

Cut long grass, clean up overgrown gardens, raise and sort timber piles, stack sheet metal off ground, declutter sheds and remove any accumulations of waste.

#### Securely store

Ensure all pet food and food waste is stored in durable tight fitting lidded containers.

#### Cleaning pet areas

Regularly clean and restrict entry points to pet areas, including aviaries and chicken pens.

### Restricting water access

Remove or cover water fountains and pet water bowls.

### Ways to control vermin

#### Trapping

Snap trap and non-lethal traps can be useful for small infestations and are suitable for removing vermin where poisons are unsuitable.

Set traps in a safe, covered spot. Good baits are peanut butter, dried fruit, chocolate, thin slices of meat such as bacon or sausage and cereals/oats. Care should be taken to follow the instructions and contact the manufacturer for any advice on the use of the product.

#### Chemical Baiting

When using anticoagulant poisons consider the following points:

- Always read the label and follow the instructions.
- Ensure poisons are inaccessible to children and pets.
- Place poisons as close as possible to the source of infestation, preferably in a covered, dark position.
- Inspect baits daily and top up for the first 3 days until the feeding requirements are known.

### Pest Management Technicians

Contact your local licensed pest management technician to help control and prevent rats and mice harbouring on your property.