

## RODENT CONTROL

Please check the area surrounding your home to make sure you are not providing harborage or food for rodents. Rats can breed and multiply at an alarming rate. They need food and shelter to survive. By correcting the following items, rodents can be kept in check:

- Keep your yard free of trash. Rodents will nest underneath trash.
- Keep yard free of high weeds, brush/branch piles and building materials.
- Make sure debris does not collect under wooden decks and porches.
- Pick up fallen fruit, vegetables, dog feces and leftover dog food in the yard daily. Rodents will eat dog manure to survive.
- Use trash cans with tight-fitting lids. Replace cans that are cracked or have holes on the bottom. Rats can chew through the bottom of rubber-type containers. Metal containers with tight fitting lids are recommended.
- Firewood must be stored a minimum of 12 inches above the ground.
- If you compost, turn pile daily. Food scraps should not be put in compost piles. This will only invite rats. Only leaves and grass clippings should be used for composting. Compost piles can be harborage for rodents.
- Feeding the birds and squirrels on a regular basis can cause a rodent problem. Bird and squirrel manure can be tracked into the carpeting of your home. Court mediation (313 343 2590) may be necessary to handle neighbor complaints regarding the excess feeding of birds and squirrels
- Lastly, rat bait (poison) can be purchased at your local hardware store. **EXTREME CAUTION** should be exercised when using these products. Always follow manufacturer's instructions. These products **MUST** be kept away from children and pets.

Pest control services found in the Yellow Pages can be hired to address this situation, if need be.