



## Help Prevent Rodents

Rodents (rats) are unwanted pests that can cause disease and damage property. The best ways to prevent rodent problems are to reduce the areas where they can live and breed, and to reduce possible food sources. The following suggestions will help reduce or eliminate rodents near your home by reducing food sources and harborage (living) sites.

When feeding pets outside:

- Provide enough food in the morning and evening for the pet to eat in ten minutes (always provide water). Pets will adjust to this feeding schedule in a few days.
- Remove any remaining food immediately.
- Keep food in sealed containers in the home or in an outside building. Rats have an excellent sense of smell and may go inside buildings looking for food.

Do not fill bird feeders if you have seen any rodents in your yard. Rodents will live close to their food sources.

Do not throw food scraps outside in the yard. These will attract rats quickly.

Keep garbage can lids on tightly and replace any cans that have holes. A rodent can fit through a hole that is only one-half inch wide.

Be aware of other possible food sources, such as fruit trees or dog droppings.

If you choose to purchase rat poison, put it in areas that cannot be reached by children, pets or other animals. You may want to use a special tamper-resistant bait box or over the counter poisons. Poisons containing the ingredient Bromethalin may assist in controlling the rodent population. Snakes and raptors (hawks and owls) are natural predators that can also help control rodents.

If you live within the city limits of Greensboro, you may contact the City at 373-2111 regarding lot clean-up and to request that any vacant houses be torn down to prevent rodent harborage. If you live within the city limits of High Point, you may call 883-3111 for assistance.

Keep your yard clean and free of debris. Rats will nest in junk piles or old sheds.

Keep firewood and other yard materials stacked at least six inches off the ground to reduce nesting areas.

For more information call the Guilford County Department of Public Health at 336-641-3771.