

RAT CONTROL ADVISORY

The Health Department advises it is important to control rats as they may carry diseases and could affect the public health. Rats can roam about in any neighborhood, often within the storm sewer systems, in search of food and harborage. Rats will multiply and infest a lawn when they find: **food** (*open garbage, pet food, birdseed, dog droppings*), **water** (*un-drained containers or ponds*), and **harborage** (*overgrown vegetation, piles of rubbish or junk, and under elevated decks & sheds*). **You can prevent rats on your property and help eliminate rats from your neighborhood by taking the following steps:**

- *Keep all garbage in cans with tightly closed lids*
- *Do not leave Birdseed or pet food to remain outside on lawns*
- *Eliminate stagnant water outside (open buckets, unused pools, tires...)*
- *Keep the lawn clean of any dog feces*
- *Trim all overgrown weeds, bushes, and lawns, especially near buildings*
- *Remove any piles of rubbish (branches, leaves, grass clippings...)*
- *Eliminate outside storage of junk or debris on the property*
- *Elevate items stored outside (firewood... etc.) 6 in. above the ground*
- *Repair or screen any openings in exterior walls of buildings*
- *Check regularly for burrow holes on lawns, where garbage and recyclables are stored, soil near building walls, around sheds, under decks, and beneath piles of wood or debris, or look for know holes on building walls & fences.*

***** If you find rat burrows and see rats, get an exterminator immediately! *****

Only a Licensed Pest Control Company can safely and quickly control rat infestations. Homeowner's can maximize control efforts by coordinating a single Pest Control Service with other neighbors. Instruct children to never touch any wild animals (dead or alive). **The Health Department is available to assist you by inspecting your property and your neighborhood for rodent activity.** For further advice about rat control contact the South Brunswick Health Department (732-329-4000 X-7238).