



Update on Alberta Rat Control Program

AISC Conference

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Government of Alberta
March 20, 2024

Inspection and Investigation Section



The Agricultural Pests Act 1941

- Authorizes the Minister of Agriculture to **designate as a pest** any animal that is likely to destroy crops or livestock
- Every **person** and every **municipality** has to destroy and prevent the establishment of designated pests
- Has allowed for Alberta to remain “**Rat Free**”



Pests

Must be controlled

- Norway rat and other rat species or strain derived from the genus *Rattus*
- Wild boar, when at large



Nuisances

May be controlled

- Coyotes
- Richardson's ground squirrel
- Skunk
- Deer mouse
- House mouse
- Northern pocket gopher
- Magpie

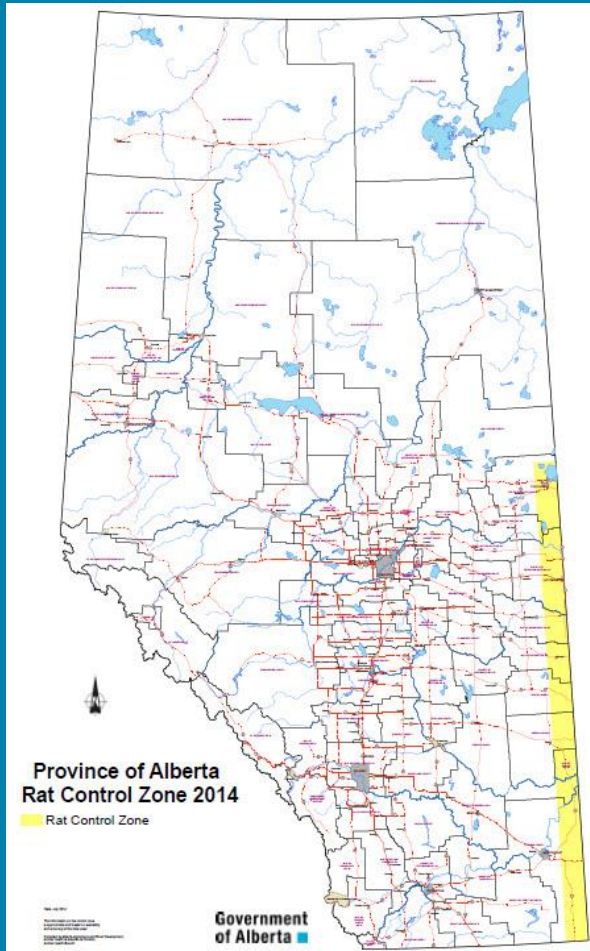


Rats reached the AB/SK border in 1950



Alberta's Geography

- Cold North
- Mountains to the west
- Montana is sparsely populated
- Eastern border is the only overland migration threat



The First Rat Patrol



Kill Rats

AT SIGHT

PROTECT YOUR
Property!



Report
ANY EVIDENCE OF RATS TO YOUR
LOCAL PEST CONTROL OFFICER...
Ask Your District Agriculturalist
for information, or write to
FIELD CROPS BRANCH
ALBERTA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

*You Can't Ignore
the RAT*



*He's a
menace to*
HEALTH
HE CARRIES GERMS

HOME
HE DESTROYS PROPERTY

INDUSTRY
HE CAUSES WASTE

KILL HIM!
LET'S KEEP ALBERTA RAT-FREE
THE DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, EDMONTON

RATS are PESTS

THEY ARE A THREAT TO...

AGRICULTURE

DESTROYERS OF
FEED AND
PROPERTY



HOME

MENACE TO
FOOD AND
PROPERTY



HEALTH

CARRIERS OF
GERMS



INDUSTRY

CAUSE OF
DAMAGE
AND WASTE



IT COSTS \$20.00 TO BOARD ONE RAT FOR ONE YEAR.



Join in the campaign
to keep them out of
Alberta, the only rat-
free area on the
North American
Continent.



For further information, write to
FIELD CROPS BRANCH,
Alberta Department of Agriculture,
Edmonton, Alberta
or contact your District Agriculturalist.

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KILL RATS WITH WARFARIN OR PIVAL

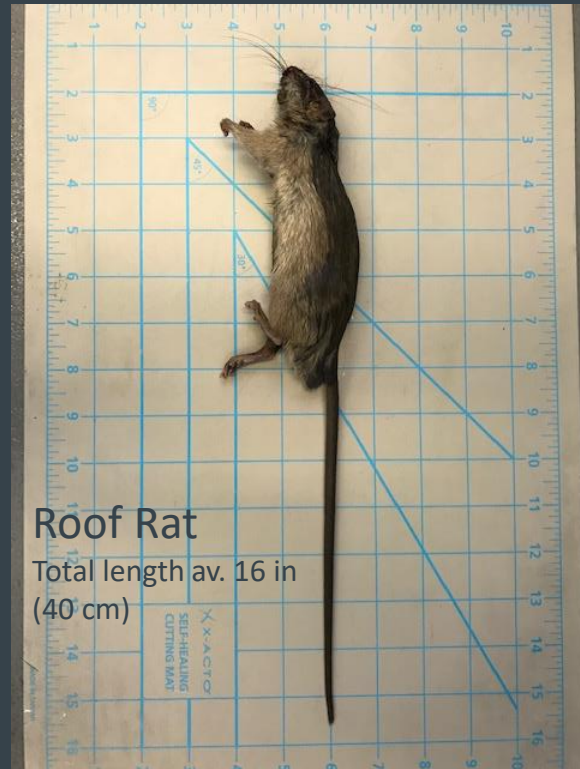
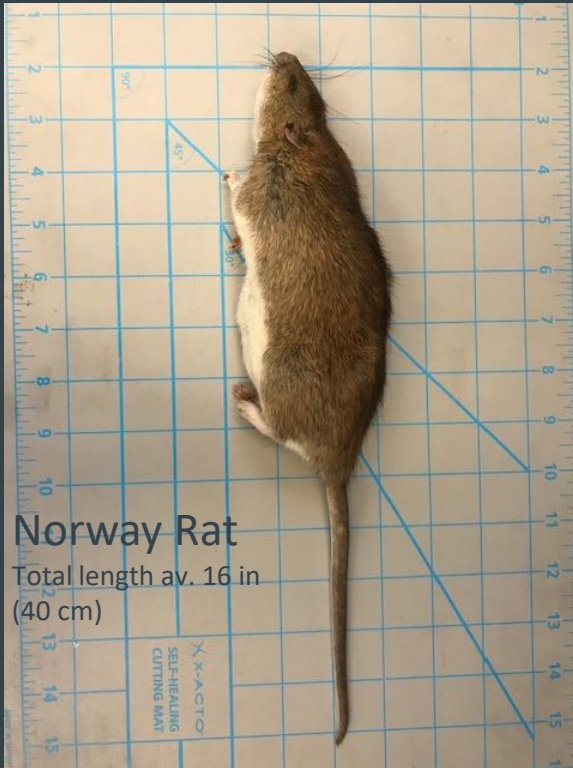
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Comparison



Rural Infestations



Urban

- Commonly hitch rides on vehicles and transport trucks
- Arrive hot, dehydrated and hungry and often do not live very long
- Pet rat or feeder rat discarded



Recycling Facilities



Landfills



Pet Rats

- Pet rats are illegal in Alberta
- Permits issued for rats travelling through Alberta



African Soft Fur Rats

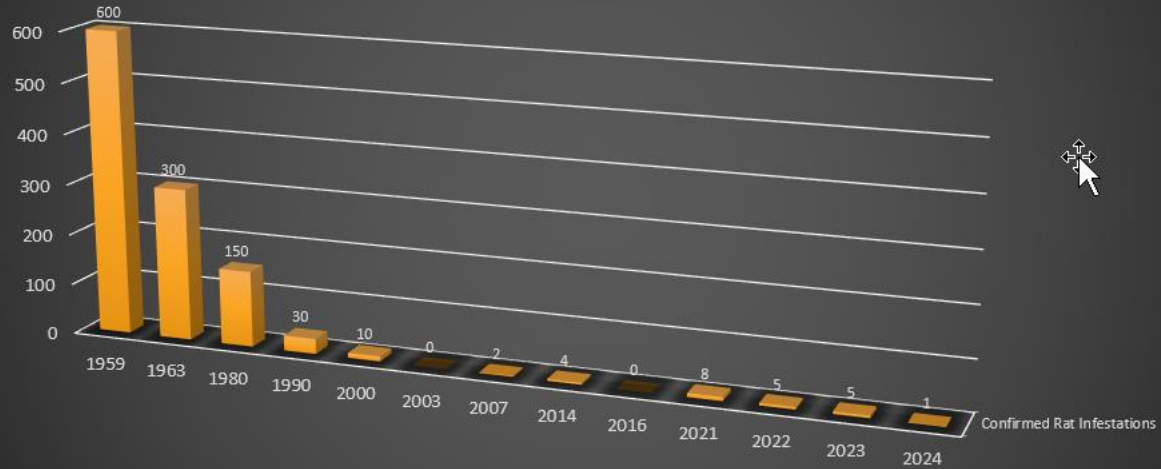
- Part of mouse family
- Are allowed in Alberta
- Raised for feeding reptiles and snakes



Critters often mistaken for rats in Alberta

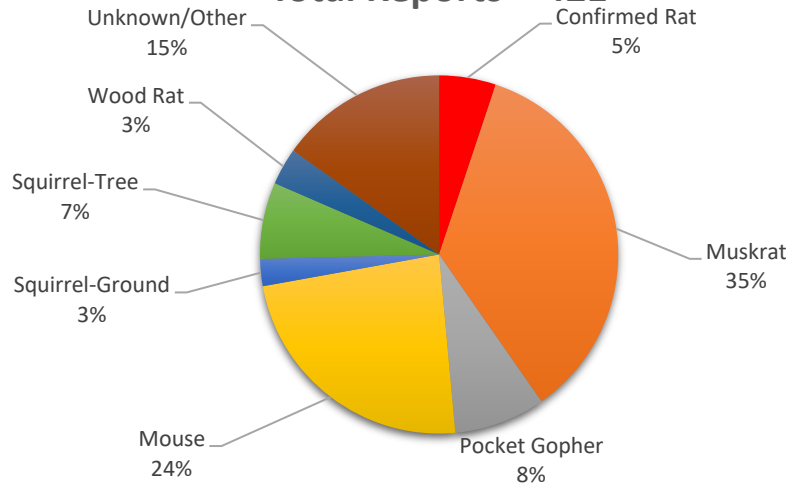


Alberta Rat Control Program Confirmed Rat Infestations

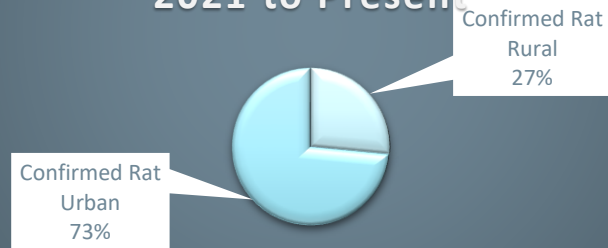


Species Identified - 2023

Total Reports = 421



Confirmed Rat (Single & Infestations Combined) Rural vs. Urban 2021 to Present



Recent Confirmed Rats



Rat-free Status

- Rats are not able to **permanently** establish in the province
- Alberta maintains a rat-free status due to the diligence of Albertans



Program Updates



SCAP grant through AISC to promote program



Assistant Rat Program Specialist - Airdrie

Rodent Academy – New Orleans



Media

This American Life – “Must be rats on the brain” June 2023



“Living without menace” – CBC Gem November 2022



Questions?

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alberta.ca/albertas-rat-control-program

