**RODENT CONTROL**
for households in Logan City

**Antechinus (Anti-kine-is)**
The two antechinus species you may get in your yard are the Yellow Footed and Brown Antechinus, the former being more common.

**Description:** Antechinus are about the size of a small rat, with a body length of 90-110 mm and a 90 mm tail. They have a pointed snout, cat-like teeth and kangaroo-like hind feet. Their colour ranges from grey/brown, through to orange.

**Diet:** They usually eat insects, flowers, seeds and nectar, but may also eat small birds and mice. Antechinus may also enter houses in search of food.

**Please note:** Always attempt to observe and identify that the rat in your yard is actually a rat before you begin trapping or baiting. Try to use baiting or trapping techniques that are unlikely to harm these native animals; e.g. cage traps allow you to closely view and identify the animal before deciding whether or not to kill it. If baiting outside, ensure baits are placed off the ground, within an artificial structure, such as a plastic pipe, to discourage native wildlife.

**Free bait service**
Council’s free rat bait service entitles residents of Logan City to 100 grams of rodent bait in any three-month period.

This bait can be collected from Council’s Administration Centre, Beenleigh Customer Service Centre and Jimboomba Customer Service Centre.

Logan City Council Administration Centre
150 Wembley Road, Logan Central
Open Monday to Friday, 8 am - 5 pm (except public holidays)

Beenleigh Customer Service Centre
58-60 Manila Street, Beenleigh
Open Monday to Friday, 8 am - 4.45 pm (except public holidays)

Jimboomba Customer Service Centre
18-22 Honora Street, Jimboomba
Open Monday to Friday, 8 am - 4.45 pm (except public holidays)

More information about rodent control can be obtained from Council’s Vector Control Unit on 3412 5397.

**Bandicoots**
Northern brown bandicoots are the most common suburban bandicoot, while long nosed bandicoots are only occasionally seen in suburbia.

**Description:** Bandicoots have harsh, almost spiny fur, which is brown/grey in colour. They have a long pointed snout, rat like tail and elongated hind feet, similar to a kangaroo. They can grow as large as a toy dog or rabbit and weigh between 1.7 kg and 3 kg.

**Habits and habitat:** Bandicoots spend their lives on the ground and do not climb. Small conical shaped holes in your lawn or garden bed are a sure sign that you have bandicoots. They dig these holes with their front paws and eat garden pests such as grubs and beetles. Bandicoots have a humped posture and move with a jerky motion.

**Diet:** Bandicoots mainly eat insects, spiders, and earthworms, but as they are omnivorous they will also eat berries and seeds.

Be careful - we’re not all bad

Bandicoots and antechinus are native marsupials, which are often mistaken for rodents, due to their rat-like appearance and nocturnal habits. These native animals are not vermin and play an important part in the natural ecology of your backyard.

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For more information on Council’s services, visit www.logan.qld.gov.au.

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Other forms of traps include cage traps and sticky glue boards. Cage traps are generally more successful than snap traps, but are more expensive. Glue boards need to be nailed or tied in position to avoid them being dragged away behind a partially-stuck rodent.

Tips for successful trapping include:

- Use a number of traps. Not using enough traps is the most common mistake.
- Rats regularly travel the same routes. These routes or ‘runways’ tend to be against a wall, fence or solid object. Place traps along these ‘runways’, with the trigger towards the wall. Traps can also be tied to rafters or pipes which rats are known to use.
- Leave the traps unset until the bait has been taken at least once. This reduces the chance of rodents becoming trap-shy.
- Bait the traps with a small piece of sausage, bacon or peanut butter, and replace the old bait with fresh bait regularly.

Pest management technicians have other methods, such as tracking powders, gels, and fumigation, that can be effective.

To successfully control rodents on your property, it is necessary to use a combination of control methods.

Some control methods such as baiting and trapping will be lethal to the rat. Some will reduce the environment’s capacity to support rats, such as removing sources of food, water and shelter.

Step 1

The first step in controlling rodents is to remove all sources of food. Common sources in residential areas include:

- Dog and cat food left outside or in areas where rats could gain access
- Bird seed - either from bird cages or seed given to wild birds
- Compost heaps - use rodent-proof compost bins
- Unsealed packets of food in kitchen cupboards or other areas where rats could gain access
- Rubbish and spilled food
- Fruit and nut trees, including the orange/yellow fleshy seeds of some palm trees - remove fallen fruit
- Chicken and stock feed not stored in suitable containers

Step 2

The second step is to remove potential harbourage or breeding sites, e.g. areas where rats can hide, rest, or build a nest.

- Prevent access into buildings by blocking any holes and gaps.
- Keep your yard well maintained and tidy by mowing grass and removing any accumulated items, such as branches, rubbish, and disused equipment.
- Keep stored items tidy and preferably off the ground.

Step 3

Finally, the rodents themselves must be eliminated. This may be achieved through baiting or trapping.

Rodent facts

There are two major pest species of rat, commonly called the Norway rat and the Roof Rat.

The Norway rat is a large, stocky rat with small ears and a tail shorter than its body.

Norway rats usually dig shallow burrows in the ground, but indoors will nest inside walls, underneath equipment, in storage areas and other similar sites, usually on the lower floors of a building.

The roof rat is a slender rat, with large ears, a pointed nose, and a tail that is longer than its body.

Rats are social animals that live together with well defined territories and a social hierarchy. Rats are known to bite humans, particularly infants and helpless adults. These rat bites can cause rat bite fever, which is a bacterial infection from the teeth of the animal.

Rats can contaminate food and water with salmonella food poisoning, leptosporosis, or trichinosis.

Rats can indirectly spread a number of serious human diseases by way of fleas and mites, most notably plague and scrub typhus fever.

Rodents can:

- burrow down vertically to a depth of 1.2 metres
- climb any surface offering foothold
- climb horizontal and vertical wires
- climb inside vertical pipes (from 40 mm to 100 mm in diameter)
- climb outside vertical pipes to a diameter of 75 mm
- dive through plumbing traps
- drop 15 metres without serious injury
- gain access through a 15 mm hole (rats)/ 6 mm hole (mice)
- gnaw through timber, aluminium sheeting, electrical wires, glass, and improperly cured concrete
- swim 800 metres in open water
- tread water for three days
- jump vertically 600 mm
- jump horizontally 1.2 metres on a flat surface

Baiting

There are two main types of bait used to kill rodents (rodenticides). The first type requires the rodent to feed on the bait several times before the poison will kill the animal. The second type only requires the rodent to eat the bait once, but it will take several days for the poison to be effective and kill the rodent.

Most modern baits are the second type and contain a chemical called bromadiolone or brodifacoum. Baits must be placed in areas that are inaccessible to children, pets, and other wildlife. Pellet-style baits can be used in dry areas such as roof spaces, behind furniture, and behind appliances such as refrigerators.

For baiting outside, rodenticide wax blocks should be used, as these are not affected by rain. These small blocks can be tied into position and may be tied inside a pipe laid on its side. This will allow rodents to enter the pipe and consume the bait, but will keep pets and other animals away from the bait.

Trapping

When used correctly, snap trapping is an effective method of rodent control.

Traps are especially useful when you wish to avoid using poisons, eliminate bait-shy rats, and to avoid having rats crawl into inaccessible places to die, such as wall cavities.

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