



# Allpest Pest Awareness

## Keeping you informed

Our Pest Awareness Series offer informative, easy to understand information on a range of problem pests.

We aim to keep you in control and as well as maintain a safe and healthier environment for your immediate surrounding.

Our Pest Awareness Sheet presents facts on:

- Overview
- Ecology and Habit
- Breeding Cycle
- Health Risk

For more range on the series, please visit our website [www.allpest.com.au](http://www.allpest.com.au) or call us at 08 9416 0200



## Norway Rat (*Rattus Norvegicus*)

### Overview

Norway rat is commonly known as brown rat, wharf rat or sewer rat. They have brown and black harsh shaggy fur with an average adult weight of 300grams. Norway rat has an excellent sense of hearing and sense of smell but relatively poor in sight being colour blind.

### Ecology

Norway rat lives outdoors, indoors and in sewers. They nest in burrow.

### Habit

The norway rats are conservative animals, somewhat predictable in their habits, avoiding unfamiliar objects and sticking to the same routes everyday. Omnivorous by nature, they are more likely to eat meat more than house rats or food that has high water content. Norway Rats are very good swimmers but not agile climbers.

### Lifecycle

An adult norway rat has a life span of 9 - 18 months. Females are able to produce up to 7 litters per year with 1 litter size carrying 8 -10 offsprings.

### Health Risks

Among the many diseases, below are the most widespread problem including the distribution of Salmonella bacteria (food poisoning organism):

- Murine Typhus fever (milder than epidemic typhus)
- Rat-bite fever (swelling of lymph glands and muscular pains)
- Lymphocytic choriomeningitis ( mild meningitis)
- Mouse typhoid ( severe food poisoning, particularly in young children)
- Poliomyelitis ( types of polio viruses)
- Favus (Skin or ringworm)

Rodents may transmit disease to human by variety of means:

- Contamination of food or utensils with their faeces and urine.
- Contamination by direct contact with faeces and urine where bacteria is able to enter the skin through scratches.
- Contamination by directly biting human.



**(08) 9416 0200**

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