



# Allpest Pest Awareness

## Keeping you informed

Our Allpest Pest Awareness Series offers 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 enviroment 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 webite  
[www.allpest.com.au](http://www.allpest.com.au) or call us at 08 9416 0200



## Roof Rat (*Rattus rattus*)

### Overview

Roof rat is commonly known as ship rat, black rat or house rat. They usually have a black or grey smooth and softer fur than the Norway rat with an adult weight of 200 grams. Roof rat has an excellent sense of hearing and smell but relatively poor sight, being colour blind.

### Ecology

Roof rat is a non burrowing species, nesting mainly in attics, walls, vines and trees.

### Habit

Roof rat is active and agile climbers. They are more erratic, unpredictable and less wary of new objects. They feed mainly on fruits, nuts, grains and vegetables.

### Lifecycle

An adult roof rat has a life span from 9 - 12 months. Females are able to produce up to 6 litters per year with 1 litter size being 6 -10 offspring.

### Health Risks

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

- Murine Typhus (milder than epidemic typhus)
- Rat-bite fever (swelling of lymph glands and muscular pains)
- Lymphocytic choriomeningitis ( mild meningitis)
- Mouse Typhus (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 or urine.
- Contamination by direct contact with faeces and urine where bacteria is able to enter the skin through scratches.
- Contamination by directly biting people.



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