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Rodent infestation at Dubai hotel curbed



Not even luxury hotels in Dubai, a world-class tourist destination in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), can escape the nightmare of rodent infestations.

And, “nightmare” is how Agricultural Materials Co. (AMC), a Bell distributor in the UAE, and its customer, Kendah Pest Control, described what they found at one of the city’s famous hotels last fall.

“It was a challenge to us especially since the rodent problem was very high with a mix of infestations between rats and mice,” reported Dominador Pauig, service manager for Kendah Pest Control, a franchise of Truly Nolen International.

Widespread Feces, Gnaw Marks, Odor

During the inspection, technicians discovered that the problem was widespread with rodent droppings and gnaw marks throughout the hotel and in surrounding shops. They even detected the distinctive odor.

Areas with food and drink, such as the hotel kitchen, bar and shops, were heavily infested, as was the receiving area and dumpsters in the back of the hotel.

Rats were living and travelling in the hotel ceiling, while mice concentrated on the ground level, nesting in cupboards.

“The customer was suffering for a long time,” Pauig said, “about six months.”

In Dubai, rodent activity increases in autumn and winter, when temperatures drop to 15-18 degrees C., but the hotel infestation was “bigger than usual,” noted AMC branch manager, Sami Miqdadi, who along with AMC Engineer Yaser Al Tamimi, worked with Kendah on this job.

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Agricultural Materials Co. (AMC), a Bell Laboratories’ distributor, is one of the UAE’s leading companies in the pest control and agricultural sectors, including public health. Registered in Dubai since 1973, the 73-year old company maintains 60 branches and showrooms in more than 44 countries. Its pest control division provides control services, pesticide and equipment supplies, technical support, and consultation for rodents, cockroaches, bed bugs, and other pests.



Part of the problem at the hotel stemmed from a failure to thoroughly inspect incoming goods, but rodents had other entry points, including holes around the electrical cables and utility lines.

“There was no good sealing,” Miqdadi recalled. “The location needed professional and effective rodent control devices so the first and credible option in our mind was Bell Laboratories’ products.”

Because food and drink were present,

“The location needed professional and effective rodent control devices so the first and credible option in our mind was Bell Laboratories’ products.”

– Sami Miqdadi
AMC Branch Manager

most of the control devices used were non-toxic – PROTECTA Bait Stations, TRAPPER 24/7 Multiple Catch Traps, TRAPPER Glue Boards, TRAPPER T-Rex Rat Snap Traps, and PROVOKE Rat Attractant.

Technicians placed glue boards on the false ceiling tiles, adjacent to walls. Approximately 300 T-Rex traps and glue boards were discreetly used in, behind and under cupboards and other spaces, away from public view. TRAPPER T-Rex traps were also fixed to pipes.

Where food was not an issue, such as in utility rooms and the receiving dock, technicians placed bait in PROTECTA Bait Stations.

Besides control measures, technicians rec-

AMC and Kendah Team in Dubai (l to r): Eng. Reynaldo Curpuz (Kendah Technical Supervisor); Warren Gabule (Kendah Finance Manager); Eng. Yaser Al Tamimi (AMC Public Health); Sami Miqdadi (AMC Dubai Manager); Dominador Pauig (Kendah Service Manager); & Darwin Durola (Kendah Technical Supervisor).

ommended that the hotel seal holes to keep rodents out, keep bar counters and pantries clean, and properly dispose of leftover food to avoid crawling insects and to discourage rodents.

As an added service, Kendah mobilized one technician exclusively to the hotel for a month to monitor activity and to service all control devices.

Their efforts paid off.

During the first two weeks, they caught between 10 and 15 rodents every other day on TRAPPER Glue Boards and T-Rex Snap Traps, according to a report prepared by AMC Eng. Yaser Al Tamimi and Kendah site manager, Ariel Espirtin.

After the initial knockdown, the infestation level had been reduced to the point where the technician needed to check traps less frequently. By then the number of rodents captured on the traps was down by two-thirds.

Most of the rats and mice were caught in the bar, storage plant room and the receiving area. Within three weeks or so, the infestation was under manageable control.

Today Kendah Pest Control continues to provide routine maintenance services to the hotel with TRAPPER T-Rex Rat Snap Traps as the primary control for any future unwanted hotel guests. ■



Black Rats

Believed to have originated in Southeast Asia, the black rat made its way to Europe centuries ago, ahead of the more aggressive Norway rat. With it came the Black or Bubonic Plague, transmitted by the fleas on black rats.

From Europe, the black rat tagged a ride on Spanish galleons to Central and South America. And, when the first colonists stepped ashore in Jamestown in 1609, black rats were with them, heralding their arrival in the “New World,” too.

Now less prevalent than the Norway rat, black rats thrive in tropical climates and continue to travel by ship, plaguing seaports with damage to docks and warehouses.

The black rat occurs in many subspecies but only a few are actually black.

PROFILE

SIZE: Length: 12 3/4” – 17 7/8” (325 – 455 mm)

WEIGHT: 4 – 12 3/8 oz. (115 – 350g)
Overall, smaller and sleeker than the Norway rat

FUR: Brownish or grayish above; grayish to whitish underparts

FEATURES: Prominent ears & dark, scaly, sparsely haired tail (longer than half total length)

AKA: Roof rat, ship rat, *Rattus rattus*

HABITAT: Outdoors, it nests in trees and vines. Indoors, it inhabits ceiling voids, attics, and wall voids in roofs. However, when pushed, it will inhabit burrows, sewers, and ground floors of buildings. Many enter buildings from roofs or utility lines.

BREEDING: Female averages four to eight pups per litter.

FEEDING HABITS: Eats small portions of food in several places when foraging. Eats what is available but prefers grains, seeds, nuts, and fresh fruits and vegetables, along with insects, slugs and snails.

T-Rex controls black rats in U.K. Port

Black rats inhabiting a multi-story building at one of the U.K.'s busy ports did not stand a chance against Bell's TRAPPER T-Rex Rat Snap Traps.

"The infestation was well established and the availability of alternative food material meant that baiting alone would have given little success," reported David Cross, technical manager for Connaught Compliance, a national pest control company with pest management teams throughout the U.K.

"As expected with this species, a lot of the harbourage was present at high level with horizontal and vertical cable trunking being used as runs to and from feeding and drinking sites," he pointed out.

Taking an integrated approach to controlling the rats, the company selected T-Rex Rat Snap Traps as part of the treatment.

"The fact that the T-Rex can be fixed onto vertical, as well as horizontal, rat runs was one of the main reasons for selecting the traps and they proved to be effective with or without the use of baits when positioned along runs," Cross said.

Technicians positioned the T-Rex traps along the ledges and fixed them to cables to intercept the rats as they moved around the building.

"This, combined with a diligent and focused approach to cleaning to encourage bait take, achieved significant population reductions," Cross added. ■



One of many black rats captured with Bell's TRAPPER T-Rex Rat Snap Trap at a U.K. port.

Easy-to-use TALPIRID Mole Trap surprises both mole & pest controller

Try it, you'll like it.

That's what Gary Kirkbride, owner of Cumbria Wildlife Management, a one-man pest control operation in the U.K., realized when he tried Bell's new TALPIRID Mole Trap.

Kirkbride posted his experience on the UKPCO Forum, in which he described how he first saw the TALPIRID Mole Trap last fall in Birmingham, England, at PestTech 2009, Europe's largest one-day pest control exhibition.

Like many of the 1,400 or so pest control technicians attending the show, Kirkbride visited Bell Laboratories' exhibition booth to check out new products.

"I picked the trap up and put it straight back down, not really showing much initial interest," he recalled.

But that wouldn't be the last of the TALPIRID Mole Trap for him.

On Christmas Day, Kirkbride opened a gift from a fellow friend and once again encountered the TALPIRID mole trap. This time, like a kid with a new toy, he played with the trap for nearly an hour – pushing, pulling, testing the strength of the trap's dual springs, looking for any weaknesses.

"After all, it was a brand new type of trap and I wasn't certain it would work at all," he noted. A tried-and-true fan of the half barrel-type trap commonly employed to trap moles in England, Kirkbride said he wasn't sure he "would ever use the trap in preference, as most of my work is on farms and estates in Northwest Cumbria."

So much for saying "never."

About three weeks later, he received a telephone call from a local garage owner who had a mole problem. Kirkbride, remembering his new TALPIRID Mole Trap, decided it was the perfect job to try out the trap.



From his inspection of the grounds, Kirkbride estimated two to three moles were at work. He settled on an agreement with the owner and proceeded to locate an active mole tunnel.

"The ground was firm but not too hard, perfect conditions," he noted. Next, Kirkbride placed the trap into position and stood on the yellow foot plate to set it. "It was so easy which was brilliant. All I could do now was carry on to my next job."

A day later he returned to the garage and found the trap with the yellow foot pedal "standing proud," as he phrased it, indicating the trap had been activated.

"When I released the trap from the ground, I found a mole caught. The trap was quick and simple to set and easy to work with," a surprised Kirkbride discovered.

* * * * *

And, in the U.S., another new user of TALPIRID Mole Trap recently posted his comments on the Pest Management Professional web site.

Todd Rosamond, owner of Rosamond Termite & Pest Management Systems in Southaven, Mississippi, writes:

"I think it is a great advancement in mole remediation technology. It works really well as a stand-alone treatment strategy or in conjunction with mole bait.... I'm sold!" ■

Bell's first product catalog in German hits the mark

Marking a first, Bell's new 2010 Rodent Control Product & Label Guide, now written in German, made its debut at the pest control exhibition, Eurocido 2010, in Dortmund, Germany on February 18 - 19.

The 16-page catalog contains complete descriptions and color photos of Bell products available in German-speaking markets.



Bell's Regional Manager for Northern Europe, Thomas Deucher, handed out hundreds of copies at Eurocido.

Completely up-to-date, the catalog features Bell's rodent baits, mechanical traps, attractants, and insect glue traps, as well as its newest products, DETEX with Biomarker, a non-toxic monitoring bait, and PROTECTA Load-N-Lock, a heavy-duty anchoring system for PROTECTA Sidekick and PROTECTA LP Bait Stations.

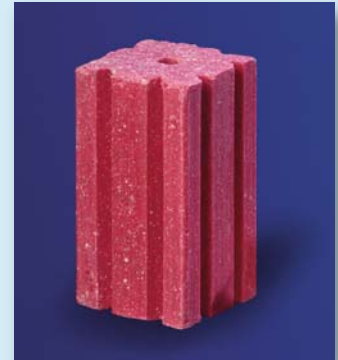
As a valuable resource in the field, the catalog includes specimen labels and Material Safety Data Sheets for NOTRAC and SOLO rodenticides.

Its center spread, highlighting the key features of products, provides pest control technicians with a quick reference to products.

A similar catalog with products available in the U.K. was released last November at PestTech 2009.

Bell product catalogs are available through your Bell distributors. ■

SOLO Super-Size BLOX now in Ireland



SOLO Super-Size BLOX, Bell's 200g bait Blox, received registration in February from the Pesticide Control Service for use in the Republic of Ireland.

SOLO contains the active ingredient, brodifacoum which controls both rats and mice but is especially effective on mouse infestations where resistance is suspected.

Because of its large size, SOLO Super-Size BLOX is ideal for baiting sewers and other heavily-infested locations. A center hole lets technicians hang it from wire, nail it in place or secure it in a bait station.

Phone Bell's U.K. office for information on distribution: +44-1787-379-295 ■

Use pesticides safely. Always read the label. Follow the BPCA Code of Practice for glue boards in the UK.

Address Service Requested

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