

Fall Prep continued from front page

in a higher spot like attics or ceiling.

Identifying the type of rodent infesting the site will help in choosing the best course of action and the proper products to eliminate these pests the quickest. Decide if baiting and/or trapping makes the most sense. Use the correct size of snap trap, depending upon if the target is rats or mice. Choose the appropriate bait as well as bait station placement. After employing rodent control devices, monitor for new holes and tunnels a week or two after the exclusion, trapping, and/or baiting has taken place. Following these steps will lead to a successful integrated pest management (IPM) program. ■



Keep grounds cleaned up to prevent rodents from burrowing.



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PREVENTATIVE FALL MAINTENANCE REDUCES WINTER INFESTATIONS

Fall is the start of the season when Norway rats and roof rats start looking for temporary winter shelters inside homes and businesses. As natural food sources begin to dry up, rodents rely on humans for food and shelter.

Once rodents are inside, they present serious issues that can leave residents ex-

posed. Both Norway and roof rats carry harmful bacteria and viruses like Salmonella or Leptospirosis which can leave residents and pets vulnerable to sickness or death. Rodents can also spark electric fires or damage a home's foundation through constant gnawing.

Preventable seasonal maintenance and proper tools like bait stations and snap traps can intercept rodents quickly or keep them out entirely this winter.

Since rodents prefer to operate in areas with great coverage, here are seasonal problems to look for:

- ▶ Overflowing garbage cans
- ▶ Overhanging foliage
- ▶ Yards covered in fallen sticks, leaves, bird seed, and nuts

Dropping leaves, nuts, and limbs are a prime food resource for rodents. Leaves provide ample coverage and a ready-made food source. Nuts and limbs are a prime food and gnawing source for Norway and roof rats. Pest Management Professionals (PMPs) should also be on the lookout for personal gardens and community gardens, since they provide rats with a continuous food source. It may be worth adding extra bait stations or snap traps to help combat that issue.

Depending on which part of the country your company operates, one exclusion tactic may make more sense than others. Norway rats love to burrow and nest near the ground, like in a basement or crawl space, while roof rats will nest in trees or



Above: Roof rat nibbles on seeds along residential sidewalk

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Booth #823



continued on back page

Spotlight
On:

DEER MICE



Deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) are in a different family from the well-known house mouse (*Mus musculus*) and are the most widely distributed mammal in North America. They are found in habitats that range from forests and grasslands to garages and everywhere in between. Sometimes, it can be difficult to tell if a customer has a house mouse or deer mouse infestation. Knowing the difference is an important skill since the deer mouse is one of the primary reservoirs for the Hantavirus. Identification is crucial so technicians can take certain precautions during servicing to avoid the spread of the disease.

BEHAVIOR:

- Lifespan: 2-24 months
- Diet: insects, larvae, grains, seeds, almost anything. Known for caching large amounts of seeds and nuts to last the winter (since they do not hibernate)
- Sexual maturity: 1 – 2 months
- Gestation Period: 19 days
- No. of Young: 3 – 5 per litter
- No. of Litters: 2 – 4 per year
- Nests: Outdoor nests are in logs, tree trunks, and abandoned nests.
- Tend to be active at night

CONTROL:

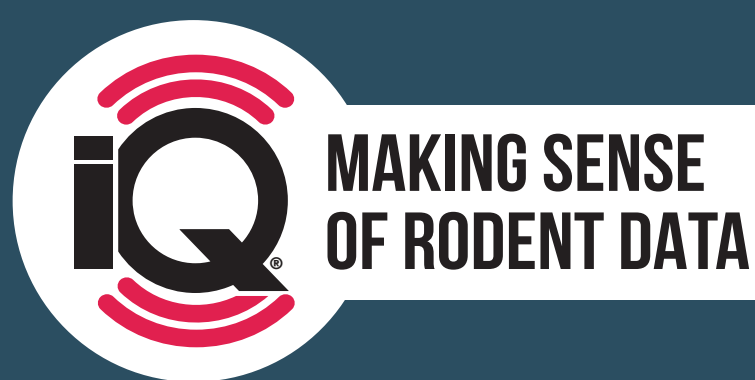
As with all rodent species, the best approach to control is through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Start with Bell's

Trapper Mini-Rex Snap Traps – because deer mice are known to hoard seeds and nuts, try gluing grains in the removable bait cup to entice rodents. Bait is another way to eliminate persistent infestations and Contrac All-Weather BLOX is an excellent tool to control populations. Because of rodents' hoarding tendencies, it is important to secure BLOX in tamper-resistant bait stations. Finally, technicians should take certain precautions when servicing an account with a deer mouse infestation. The Hantavirus is spread through the aerosolization of mouse urine, feces, and saliva – wear a respirator, and do not vacuum or sweep dust that might be contaminated. Instead, disinfect the area and use a damp cloth to remove nesting materials and droppings. ■

What is Hantavirus?

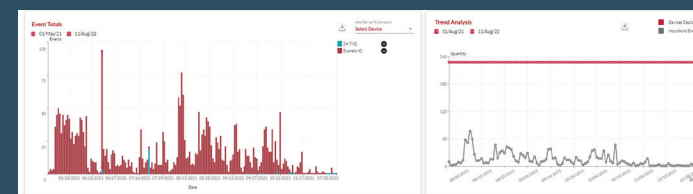
The hantavirus family of viruses, which are primarily carried by rodents, can cause a wide range of symptoms in individuals all over the world. Any hantavirus infection can produce the Hantavirus disease in humans. The “New World” hantaviruses that are found in the Americas are known to cause HPS or hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. The Sin Nombre

virus, which is spread by deer mice via saliva, feces, urine, or the aerosolization, is the most significant hantavirus in the United States that can cause HPS. To learn more about this rodent-transmitted disease, go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.CDC.org.



The iQ product line seamlessly collects rodent activity via sensors and Bluetooth. This communicates to the service technician the number of rodent visits to stations, historical and seasonal trends, and shows where and when rodents are traveling throughout the facility. Benefits of this technology include:

- More effective bait station and trap placement.
- More effective baiting measures, the ability to try different formulations and different bait types, and verification of consumption.
- Ability to reduce rodenticides being used at the facility; non-toxic monitoring baits can be used with the system to only place active rodenticides where activity is occurring.
- Ability to prove rodent populations are declining, overall proof of routine service of devices, and proof of all rodenticides placed at the facility at any time range.



At the account level, you can sort and download the device list based on event totals and access links to all service visits performed at a given site.



“ PMPs rave about the ability to provide both their service specialists and their customers with rodent data that shows the time, place, and frequency of their travel. The organization of data, improved decision-making by analysis of the data, and enhanced customer service have been a few of the areas where we frequently receive positive comments about our Bell Sensing portal. Helping our valued customers provide better service to their valued customers, has been extremely rewarding to our team. ”



- Patrick Lynch, Sr. Vice President of Sales

The iQ devices record rodent activity and produce a variety of reports for the PMP, including:

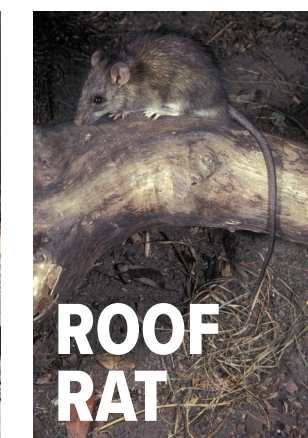
- Capture Total Trending
- Event Total Trending
- Overall Device Trend Analysis
- Bait Application Rate Trending

Each graph can have dates modified to any time range, and the data/charts can be shared easily via a one-click image download.

Service Date	Serviced By	Duration	Events	Bait Applied	Branch	Account	Notes
7/29/2022 @ 2:55 pm	Bill Nelson	38 22h 5s	0	0.00 Units	Bell Sensing Technologies	Window Time Study	
7/28/2022 @ 8:23 am	Bill Nelson	32m 45s	1	0.00 Units	Bell Sensing Technologies	Window Time Study	
7/27/2022 @ 2:39 pm	Bill Nelson	2h 20m 48s	0	152.00 Units	Bell Sensing Technologies	Window Time Study	
7/27/2022 @ 10:39 am	Bill Nelson	31m 27s	0	36.00 Units	Bell Sensing Technologies	Window Time Study	
7/15/2022 @ 9:46 am	Bill Nelson	5h 17m 58s	0	0.00 Units	Bell Sensing Technologies	Window Time Study	
7/11/2022 @ 2:55 pm	Bill Nelson	22m 58s	2	0.00 Units	Bell Sensing Technologies	Window Time Study	
6/30/2022 @ 10:22 am	Bill Nelson	4h 52m 47m 58s	0	0.00 Units	Bell Sensing Technologies	Window Time Study	

All in the DE-TAILS

Did you know?



Aside from ear size and snout shape, one of the easiest ways to tell the difference between a Norway rat and a roof rat is by the length of its tail.

A roof rat's tail is always longer than its entire body, so look first at the tail length for a shortcut to identifying between the two types of rats.