

PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE FROM THE BELMONT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BE ON ALERT FOR RAT PROBLEMS RESIDENTS WORKING TOGETHER CAN HELP!!

The Belmont Health Department staff is receiving a dramatic increase in rat complaints and sightings from residents of Belmont. Many of these reports have been confirmed.

All of the rat harborage areas confirmed by Health Department Staff have been on private property.

Additionally, public property such as parks, school yards, and sewers are being monitored by DPW and Health Department staff.

WE NEED YOUR HELP SO WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PLEASE CHECK YOUR PROPERTY FOR ANY RODENT ACTIVITY AND/OR RODENT HARBORAGE AREAS AND TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS! Homeowners and tenants are receiving education, advice, and consultation on an individual basis from the Health Department. Information flyers have been distributed to targeted neighborhoods also. However, this is a community issue and everyone's assistance and cooperation is necessary.

**Look for burrows, nests, fresh droppings, dead rats, gnawing marks on wood
An example of a rat burrow found in a Belmont yard**



STEPS YOU CAN TAKE ON YOUR PROPERTY TO ASSIST US

1. Use covered trash barrels made of metal or heavy plastic instead of bags for your trash! Do not put your trash out earlier than the night before your pick-up.
2. Maintain your property in a sanitary manner, so as to reduce the potential for rodents. Keep grills clean; store woodpiles neatly with a foot clearance from the ground.
3. Rodent proof all accessory structures and garages using durable materials such as ¼ inch mesh, metal hardware, or sheet metal. Eliminate all gaps greater than ¼ inch.
4. Reduce or eliminate available food, water, and harborage that can be used by rodents. Do not leave pet food out at night and take down birdfeeders that rodents can access.
5. Remove dog and cat feces from your yard on a regular basis.
6. Thin out vegetation keep grass and shrubbery cut short.
7. If you live in rental housing, routinely inspect the property for evidence of rodents. If you see signs of rodents, tell your landlord.

If you discover a rat or other rodent problem on your property we advise you to contact a licensed pest control operator for assistance. Please feel free to contact the Health Department at 617-993-2720 for a list of pest control operators or specific questions.

It is your responsibility to maintain your property so as to avoid a rat problem and to eliminate any infestation!