



Borough of Longport

Dr. Nicholas M. Russo, Ed.D.
Mayor

James P. Leeds, Sr.
Commissioner

Daniel J. Lawler
Commissioner

October 12, 2018

To: Borough of Longport Residents:

From: The Mayor on behalf of the Commissioners of the Borough of Longport

Re: Longport Resident Concerns about Rats

Dear Residents:

On behalf of the Commissioners of Longport I wanted to address the news of specific homeowners stating that there is a rat infestation in the Borough of Longport. In short, rats are indicative of seashore living. Actually, rats, mice, possums, rabbits and foxes have been here on Absecon Island for many years. Although, most sightings are generally along the bay and our jetties, they will venture to various food sources. Longport is a seashore town and yes, there are rats in Longport. The Borough has taken several steps to address claims of infestation:

1. The Public Works department has attempted to identify any Borough properties indicative of rat activity.
2. The Borough has an on-going pest control contract to treat Borough property. Reports from our pest control contractor indicate that there is no abnormal activity within the Borough in and around the areas the Borough is responsible for treating on public lands.
3. The Borough has reached out to the Atlantic County Public Health Department regarding residents' concerns. The public health department has provided all communities with specific recommendations to cut food supplies.

These are the steps the borough has taken. Addressing rodents is a community effort. Again, rats are attracted by a food source. Some sources of food for rats, include dog feces, trash that is not secured properly with a lid, bird feeders, discarded paper coffee cups or sandwich bags.

According to letters sent by the Atlantic County Public Health Department:

“Basically, rats need a source of food, water and shelter to survive. They will eat almost any type of food, including animal feces. They will only travel about 150 feet from their home (burrow) to their food and water source.

As such, residents need to be vigilant in reducing or eliminating conditions favorable to rodent activity. Ideally, pets should not be fed outside. If they are, food should be removed immediately after they are finished eating (allow approximately 20 minutes).

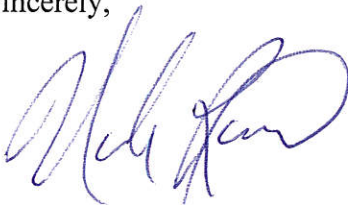
Pet waste should be cleaned up on a daily basis. Bird food should be placed in raised platforms and spillage cleaned daily. Vegetable garden areas and compost piles need to be rodent proofed. Woodpiles should be raised at least 6 inches off of the ground. Any items that can collect and hold water should be emptied and kept dry. Lastly, be sure to keep trash in tightly closed cans.

Rodents usually burrow into the soil along a wall, fence or under items being stored on the ground. Holes approximately 2 inches or more in diameter in these areas are a good indication rats may be present. If you have burrows on your property, you will need to take action to address the problem. Hiring a licensed exterminator is highly recommended. If you exterminate using your own traps, rodent bait can be purchased at most hardware stores. Be sure to follow the directions on the package.

REMEMBER, it is important to remove any food or water before placing bait or exterminating. Don't disturb the burrows; you want to kill the rodents, not cause them to move elsewhere.” Please be vigilant. With a combined effort, we will continue to keep Longport the wonderful community that it is

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at Borough Hall at 609.823.2731 ext. 100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Russo".

Nick Russo, Mayor
Borough of Longport