

Rattus norvegicus

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Brown Rat

Rattus rattus

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Tree/Black Rat

Impacts

- Rats pose a significant health problem on St Helena because they are carriers of Weil's disease, known locally as rat fever, which is sometimes fatal in humans. It gets in through cuts or is ingested (e.g. while smoking a cigarette).
- Cause damage to plants and anything! Because they are omnivorous, they impact endemic plants, having a negative impact as they gnaw the plant or eat the bark. They also gnaw at concrete, wood



Top: Rodent Operator baiting a bamboo.
Bottom: Rodent Runway
Photos: Jason Thomas

and plastic

- They damage Wirebird eggs and possibly seabird eggs/any ground nesting birds
- Provide a food source for feral cats

Actions

- To prevent rat fever, always wash hands
- If everybody took some responsibility in some way, starting around the home, it would limit numbers, including trapping rats, don't have any debris, don't have any food or water around
- Trapping - this is a sure way of knowing that you have caught it
- Poison can be used, however it can also be toxic to other animals and humans as well

