



Rat Treatment Expectations

What to expect after service for rats from Horizon Pest Control

When treating for Rats, it is important to know this is a process and often takes time to fully resolve. Rats learn at an exceptional rate and the treatment methods for corrective action will vary based on each situation. The factors that need to be taken into consideration when treating for rats include but are not limited to:

- Are they limited to the exterior of the structure, are they foraging inside the structure, are they living inside the structure, or all of the above?
- The size of the population
- If outside, how close to the structure
- If inside, how are they getting in
- Food sources/water sources (rats need 1 ounce of water every day to survive)
- Are they coming from the client's property?
- Are they being introduced into the environment?

In order to get the best results, it is important to Horizon to have a true partnership with our clients. When dealing with a rat population, regular communication is vital for the success of the program.

Some quick biological facts regarding rats:

- They require 1 ounce of fluids every day.
- They learn quickly (both what to avoid and what is "safe")
- They are great climbers
- Their teeth never stop growing so they chew on things purposefully to grind their teeth down
- They can chew through metal, wood, concrete, etc.
- An adult rat can weigh as much as 16 ounces
- They are nocturnal by nature, and live very well side by side with men based on the structures we build and the garbage we produce

In every case where we have populations within a structure, especially if we feel they are living inside the structure, Horizon wants to use mechanical traps to physically catch and kill the rodents. The size of the population is somewhat irrelevant here as it is all about the odor. Should an adult die somewhere outside of our control, the odor associated with the carcass will be noticeable and lasting. There would also be the potential for secondary pests (flies and beetles that will find and feed on the carcass). Mechanical traps include Glue Boards and Snap traps (many different varieties), which are often put in place without being set up in order for the rats to get re-acclimated to their environment before actually setting them up to capture the rodents. With high populations, we need to be out frequently to inspect the traps. A live rat that finds a dead rat in a mechanical trap may learn to avoid the devices all together. These traps will be shuffled around by the technician based on his/her finding during each follow up service. If rats are inside, no steps should be taken to immediately exclude them from entering and or exiting the structure. There is potential for trapping the rats inside and forcing them into new areas. Also, when treating for rats, if they have caused damage to any of the belongings inside the structure, the belongings should be removed for



the duration of the corrective action program. While trapping, it is likely that the inspector and technician may make recommendations for you regarding any or all of the following:

- Make sure all food is picked up at the end of the day
- All waste materials should be in garbage receptacles (metal when possible, and without holes in them)
- Trees and shrubs should be cut back 18 inches from the house
- Pet food and water should never be left out overnight

Trapping for rats is a process. Again every situation is different and in some cases we need to be out daily, others weekly, etc. This is primarily population based. The time to eliminate the issue can vary greatly based on accessibility to the areas the rats are traveling and if anything has been done already to correct the issue and population size. Horizon will do its best to keep the mechanical devices out of the way of anyone and anything that should not be in contact with them. However, this is not always possible depending on where the rodents are traveling. In some cases, the traps need to be more exposed and the client needs to be made aware of why.

Addressing exterior problems can be equally challenging but we have a lot more tools which can be used for these situations. As long as they are not entering and exiting the structure, use of tracking powder, the burrow X machine, Rat Ice, bait (using approved tamper resistant Rat Bait Stations) and/or kill traps inside bait stations. Each device and method has its place and based on the inspection process we will share with you why we are choosing a given method. In situations where there are a lot of burrows far enough away from the structure, the burrow X and or Rat Ice will provide the quickest result killing all rats in the burrows at the time of treatment. The other approaches will take some time, either for bait to be accepted or for the rats to groom themselves and ingest the material. With baits and tracking powder we cannot control where the rats will die. This can be a concern for the following reasons: Odor Control and secondary poisoning (of raptors and other birds of prey, which can be affected should they eat a dead rat).

Once the problem is under control it is important to look at the factors leading up to the issue. Points of entry should be addressed. Horizon has a team trained for this very purpose. Our exclusion team can inspect the structure, and propose a service to physically exclude the animals from future entry. In some cases, this is may not be possible based on certain building techniques and structural deficiencies.

Commonly, we will implement an exterior maintenance program for the long term control of rats. It is not uncommon for new rats to move in once the current issue is vacated. Rats want to locate themselves by food/water, harborage (protection from predators, heat sources). When they find environments that have all these items they will look to exploit them.

Controlling rats is a process that requires communication all the way through, often with multiple steps. Capturing, baiting and altering habitats in order to get the desired results. Maintenance is often a must, unless other steps are taken to reduce potential for entry and to make the area less conducive to their survival.



Thank you for taking the time to read this, thank you for choosing Horizon, and please give the service approximately _____ weeks of time to address the issue. Please call the office at 201-447-2530 if you have any additional questions or concerns along the way.

The Horizon Team.