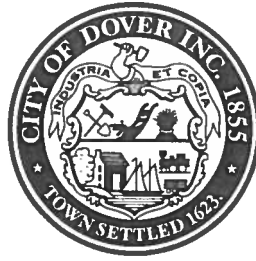


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OFFICE OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

Inspection Services is a division of Fire & Rescue

Informational Bulletin - rodents and small animals

Recently, Inspection Services has received several calls from residents looking for information on how to prevent rodents and small animals from being attracted to one's property, so Inspection Services thought it would be proactive to share the following.

Our natural environment is subject to animals, both wild and domestic, even in heavily populated areas. The City through its City Code, has some basic control measures which can be found in City Code Chapter 97; Trash and Recycling Collection. The most important is the requirement that household trash be contained in cans with covers to keep both wild and domestic animals out, until it can be placed at the curb on the day of trash pickup or removal to a dump site. When this isn't followed and trash is allowed to build up or be stored outside on the ground in a yard; mice, rats, skunks, and other animals are quickly attracted to what they consider an easy food source. For more information on Trash and Recycling Collection, visit <http://www.dover.nh.gov/government/city-charter-code/> where all City Codes can be viewed and downloaded.

Some residents opt to be environmentally friendly and have compost piles. Though helping the environment, Inspection Services discourages ground composting as this also provides an easy food source for unwanted animals. Instead, use composting tumblers or composting barrels. Since composting piles should be turned every few days to assist the material breakdown, a rotating barrel or tumbler style composting container makes that easy to do. These also keep the compost contained and prevent animals from accessing the decaying material.

Once a rodent finds a food source (food, waste, birdseed or other material), they will make their homes by burrowing close to the food source. This can be under debris or other yard items which provide a hiding place from predators or humans. Once in a safe place, they multiply very quickly and the remediation process becomes a long-term costly event. When a food source is available, rodents will typically stay away from toxic baits or traps until the easy