



A Community Plan to Manage Rats in University Hills

Trapping and poisoning are only temporary solutions. As long as food, water, and rat-friendly habitat are available in University Hills, new populations of rats will keep moving in to replace the dead ones. We can succeed in keeping the rat population at an acceptable level (we can never eliminate rats), but only if we all work together to adopt an integrated approach.

Sanitation

- Don't let fallen fruit lie on the ground—pick it up; harvest ripe fruit.
- Take bird feeders in at night, and pick up spilled seed.
- Don't leave pet food/water bowls outside.
- Secure trash cans and wash them regularly; seal trash bags tightly.
- Clean up debris piles in gardens.

Your Property

- Seal gaps in the walls of your house and garage.
- Keep your compost enclosed.

Habitat Modification

- Choose plants that are inhospitable to rats. Don't plant ivy, oleander, bougainvillea, honeysuckle, and other thickly-matted plants.
- Trim yucca and palm trees—they are potential nesting sites.
- Leave a two-foot space between shrubs—rats don't like to be in the open.
- Keep tree branches two to three feet from your house.
- Don't grow vegetation on your house walls.

Trapping and Deterrence

- Use traps: Victor Easy-Set Rat Traps with extended triggers set for a light touch are recommended. Raticator is an electronic trap that can be used outside within a bait box.
- Try a botanical repellent.
- Grow mint in pots—rats don't like it.
- Sprinkle cayenne pepper on rat pathways and known nest sites.
- Encourage raptors with perches and owl boxes—but only after the community has stopped using rodenticide.

Please Do Not:

- Do not use glue traps. They are inhumane.
- Do not use rodenticide. It kills indiscriminately and is devastating to our wildlife and dangerous for children and pets.

For more information and useful links e-mail sustainability@uhills.org