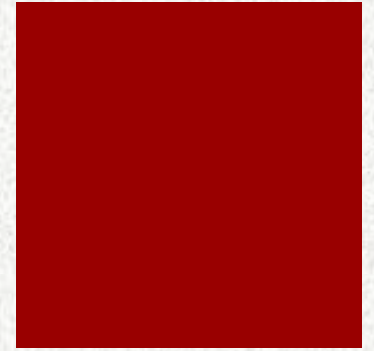


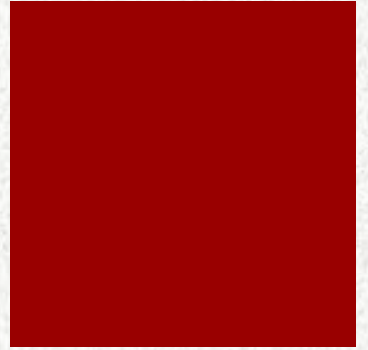
Alberta Advantage for Rats



- Started rat free (1949)
- Cold North
- Mountains West
- Montana sparsely inhabited at our south border
- Eastern border only overland migration threat

Rat Control in Alberta

Alberta was the only jurisdiction on the North American Continent considered to be a rat free territory prior to 1950, and still is.



The Invasive Rat

- *Invaded every Country*
- *Invaded every Jurisdiction*



-                         



- **Not managed to invade Alberta**

Norway Rat

- *One of 12 species of Rattus*



- *Most aggressive and adaptive of all*



- *Only Rattus successful to inhabit the Prairies*



The Invasive Rat

- *Not always a Parasite of Man*
- *Established on Islands that house populations of sea birds*
- *World wide effort to eradicate the rat from small Islands*
- *Anacapa Island California 1990*
 - *1907 rat became established*
 - *Annihilated Xantus Murrelet and Ashy Storm-Petrel*
 - *1st aerial drop of bait in North America*



Xantus Murrelet

The Invasive Rat

- *Rat Island rats eradicated 2009*
- *46 bald eagles died*



Aleutian Islands Alaska



Xantus Murrelet
Cassin's Auklet
Fork Tailed Storm Petrel
Leach's Storm Petrel
Marbled Murrelet
Black Oyster-Catcher

- *Aerial baited with brodifacoum bloc*

The Invasive Rat

- *Gwaii Hannas National Park B. C.*
- *Project Night Birds Returning*
- *2.5 million five year project 2 years left*
- *2 small islands rats eradicated working on a 80 acre island*



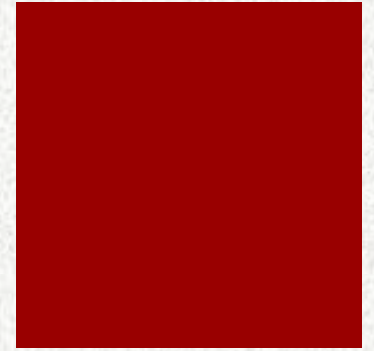
Cassin Auklet



The Invasive Rat

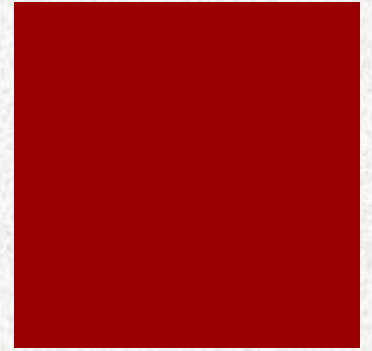
- *Gwaii Hannas National Park*
 - *Air dropping tons of brodifacoum*
 - *Hand baited some of the shorelines and accessible areas using bait stations*
 - *Aerial dropped bait spring 2013*
 - *No outdoor registration of Brodifacoum*
 - *Some non-target casualties expected*
 - *Restore ecological balance*

Rat Control in Alberta



- The provincial authorities were initially concerned that rats might spread plague throughout Alberta. (Dept. of Health)
- In 1950's the rat control program was turned over to Alberta Agriculture because rats were found predominately in rural areas next to the Saskatchewan border

Rat Control in Alberta



Rat Control Zone was created 1951

- advocated the destruction of all rats
- eliminated rat harborages and food supplies
- rat-proofed buildings

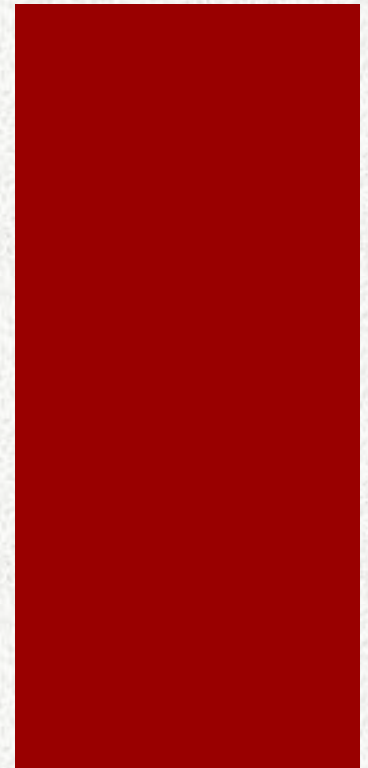
18 mile strip along Sask. Border Cold lake - Montana

Same principles used today for rat control

Brief History



- In 1952 The Dept. of Agriculture employed Poulin Pest Control to eradicate existing rat colonies in the rat control zone
- Range 1, 2 and 3 from Cold Lake to Montana



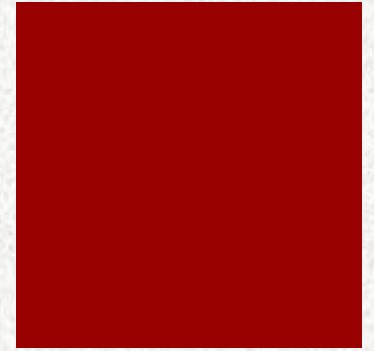
Rat Control Zone Today

- 6 jurisdictions with PCO's assigned
- check every premise yearly for rats
- set out bait and hand out bait to property owners



Rat
Control
Zone

Rat Control Strategy

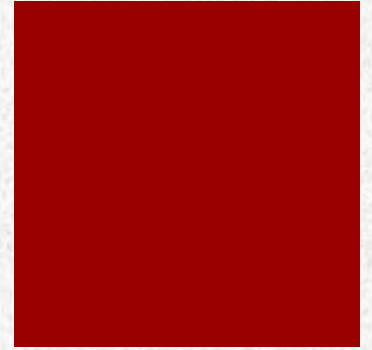


Alberta's success in staying rat-free since 1950 depends on three basic strategies.

1. Eastern border buffer control zone to destroy overland invasion of rats.

(18 mile strip along the Sask. Border from Cold Lake to Montana)

Rat Control Strategy



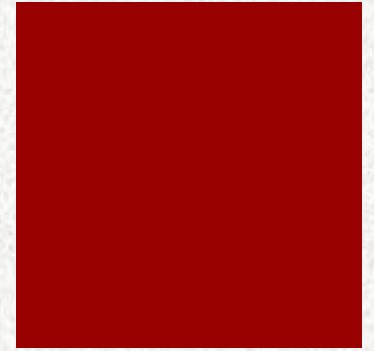
2. A network of Municipal Pest Control Officers (PCOs) across the province to identify and destroy any migrant rats
 - 70 municipal/county PCO's (Ag. Fieldmen)
 - Many Town and City PCO's

Rat Control Strategy



3. The continued support of all citizens to report rats sightings and destroy rats.

Rat Control Program Requirements



- Training
 - Yearly training of RCZ staff and Ag Fieldmen
 - Semi-annual Municipal PCO training

- Pest Insider
 - Quarterly news letter

- Trade Fairs Ag Show Conferences

- Assist with rat infestations & coordinate rat control

**We rely on all Albertan's to
report a rat sighting**



Agricultural Pests Act

Municipalities Roles and Responsibilities

Agricultural Pests Act



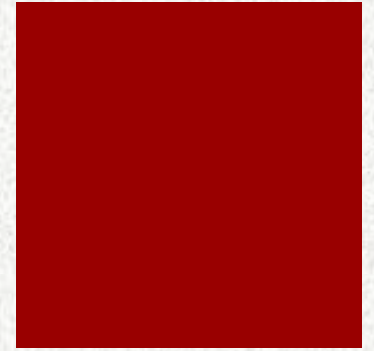
Duty of the individual

 Section 5 (2) of the Agricultural Pests Act states:

(2) An owner or occupant of land or property or the owner or person in control of livestock shall take active measures to

- (a) prevent the establishment of pests on or in the land, property or livestock unless otherwise authorized by the Minister,
- (b) control or destroy all pests on or in the land, or property or livestock unless authorized by the Minister, and
- (c) destroy any crop, vegetation, or other matter that contributes or may contribute to the maintenance or spread of a pest on or in the land, property or livestock.

Agricultural Pests Act



□ Duty of the Local Authority

□ Section 6 of the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) states:

□ *A local authority of a municipality shall take active measures*

(a) to prevent the establishment of, or

(b) to control or destroy, Pests in the municipality.

Agricultural Pests Act

Appointment of inspectors by local authority.

□ Section 10 of the APA states:

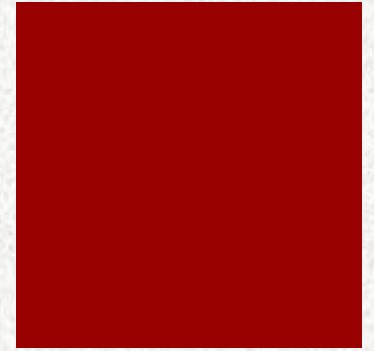
10(1) The local authority of a municipality shall appoint a sufficient number of inspectors to carry out this Act and the regulations with in the municipality.

(2) Two or more local authorities may

(a) jointly appoint inspectors to act within the municipalities represented by the local authorities, and

(b) enter in to an agreement for the sharing of the costs of the inspectors appointed jointly

Urban Infestations



- Rats need two things to survive.
Shelter and Food (*with water source*)
- Rats found in urban settings are either hitchhikers or pet rats that have been released or escaped their owners.
- Rats will immediately try to establish shelter. Many times in junk piles, in or under sheds, houses and garages.

Rat Eradication Methods

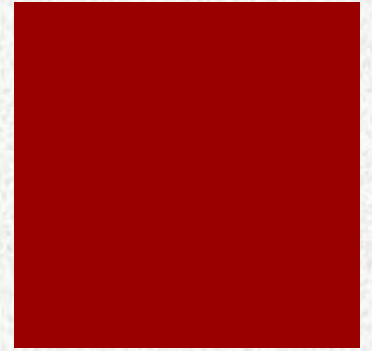


There are four main methods of eliminating rats.

- Baiting* (use bait station) (most effective)
- Trapping
- Fumigating
- Shooting (limited to rural situations)

These methods all work well at different times, locations and circumstances.

Extermination Techniques



Traps

- Snap or live trap (for single or small infestations)

Poison*

- Single feeding baits best (commercially available)







Questions?



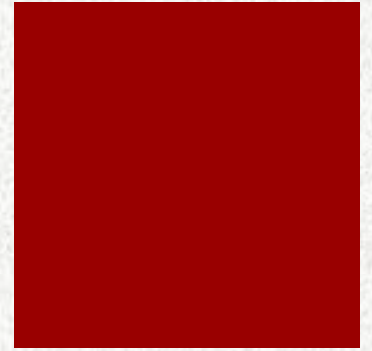
Rat Website

www.ropingtheweb.ca

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca>

Information tab at the left centre, then go to [Diseases/Insects/Pests](#) under information then click on Alberta's Rat Control Program under Quick Links and there are 14 fact sheets about rats.

Feel free to copy and use them. One fact sheet has two [Fun Quizzes](#) for kids and adults to learn more about rats.



CASE STUDY

MEDICINE HAT LANDFILL











MH Landfill Work Face - Bait Box Locations (Rev: April 4/14)

