



February 17, 2014

Dear Alderpersons,

As you are aware the City, along with some of our neighboring communities, has experienced a number of nuisance complaints involving urban wildlife such as skunks, raccoons, and rats.

The conditions that attract and support nuisance animals are the presence of **food, water and harborage (shelter)**. Urban wildlife populations, such as skunks, rats, raccoons and squirrels, grow according to the levels that local food sources support. Abundant food and shelter means an increase in the number, size and survivability of litters produced. If rodents can't feed, rodents can't breed.

One of the most prominent food sources for nuisance animals is garbage. The best way to eliminate this food source is through containment in rodent-proof containers that have a secure lid. In addition, a sufficient number of containers must be utilized to hold all garbage that accumulates between collection days.

Our Public Works Department is charged with sanitation control of our one and two-family units. They have made a recommendation to go to a uniform cart system to address several issues including unsightliness, odor and rodent control. Secondary benefits include increased worker efficiency and safety. Could the efficiencies created be translated to dollars to fund carts at a reduced cost? Are there grant dollars available to offset costs? Increased efficiencies would also free staff time to pursue enforcement of those who, regardless of efforts, do not comply.

In addition there will need to be ongoing educational efforts, such as the Spring Newsletter and web page, to increase awareness of residents on the issues surrounding property maintenance and sanitation.

Other ways residents can eliminate food sources include: daily clean up around bird feeders, promptly picking up animal waste, and by removing wood piles and other items that provide shelter areas for rodents. Attached is a factsheet summarizing steps the community can take to prevent and control rodents.

The City of West Allis, including the Health Department, is committed to improving the quality of life of residents by keeping neighborhoods safe, clean and green. We need everyone's commitment to remove access to any food sources, water sources and to eliminate rodent shelter from their property. Working together we can keep West Allis safe and clean!

Sincerely,

Sally Nusslock
Health Commissioner

Rodent Control



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

West Allis Health Department

Rodent control requires everyone to take care of their property and be vigilant to signs of pests. The conditions that attract and support rodents are the presence of food, water and harborage (shelter).

1. Elimination of Food Sources

- Place garbage in a secure rodent-proof container and not on the ground.
- Replace defective/damaged garbage containers.
- Provide a sufficient amount of garbage containers.
- DO NOT LITTER.
- Remove and properly discard ripe and fallen fruits and vegetables.
- Clean up around bird feeders daily
- Remove pet food immediately. Do not leave pet food out over night.
- Pick up pet waste in your yard. City ordinance states once every 24 hours.

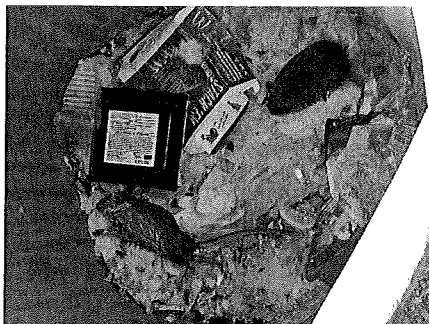


2. Elimination of Water Sources

- Keep all drains covered and secure.
- Make sure hoses are not leaking.
- Get rid of any standing water in yard (ie unused pools, tires and birdbaths)
- Fix any defective pipes or drains.

3. Elimination of Rodent Hiding Places

- Firewood should be stored at least 12 inches off the ground.
- Get rid of junk, lumber, old boxes, discarded appliances chairs or bedding on the ground or under porches.
- Seal up holes inside and outside the home to prevent entry by rodents
- Install door sweeps or weather stripping on all exterior doors. Close all openings greater than 1/4 inch to exclude rodents.
- Keep basement windows closed and securely fastened
- Remove abandoned vehicles.



Young rats in a metal container that did not have a lid.

