

Hotwells & District Allotments Association Ltd

Registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

Registered No: 6359R

Registered address: 2 Kennel Lodge Road, Bower Ashton, Bristol BS3 2JT

www.hwdaa.co.uk

Rat control policy

Introduction

Although we accept that rats are unpleasant and can be a nuisance on allotment sites, evidence provided by a national pest control operator, indicates that the use of poison in 'open' situations is often totally ineffective. We are also concerned that rodent poison may have an adverse effect on other wildlife, pets and even humans.

With this in mind, we have decided that with effect from 11 August 2017 we will no longer use, or to allow the use of, any form of rodent poison on our six allotment sites.

Instead, we offer the following advice and support to our tenants.

Dealing with rats

Where there is evidence of rat activity on, or in the immediate vicinity of, an allotment plot, tenants are advised to take the following action:

1. Remove covering from places where rats nest or feed – such as compost bins and under sheds. Disturb or turn rotting compost with a digging fork or similar tool on a regular basis to deter rats. Poke a long cane or rake into the void beneath a shed to disturb or destroy a rats' nest.
2. Avoid leaving food lying about. Dairy and cooked foods should never be put into compost bins. If you have a bird feeder on your plot, hang a tray under it to prevent seed dropping on the ground below. If you keep hens, ensure that their food is kept in sealed containers and hand feeders where they cannot be reached by a rodent.
3. Block holes used by rats in sheds, fences etc

If you are especially concerned about rat activity on your plot, please discuss the problem with your Site Rep who may be able to offer advice including setting a trap.

4. Set traps. Several models of metal or plastic 'snap trap' are readily available, including from our shop on Alderman Moore's. Set the trap according the maker's instruction and place it inside a strong box with a hole of similar diameter to a tennis ball in either end. The box should be positioned along a known rat run or places where rats are nesting but out of the way of other wildlife, little fingers (children),

paws (dogs, feral cats). Rats are attracted to peanut butter and chocolate but other bait may prove just as effective. Either the trap itself or the whole box should be fixed to the ground, a post etc.

Don't expect instant results: traps need to be checked and reset on a regular basis. Please note that tenants are responsible for removing dead rats from their allotment plot.

Where to seek further advice

Contact Bristol City Council Pest Control service or a similar organisation specialising in rodent control. Please note that tenants who choose this option will be responsible for paying the full cost of a site visit, advice and all actions carried out.

Breaches of this policy

Where it is proved that a tenant is using rodent poison in contravention of this policy on land managed by HwDAA, the Association will give serious consideration to issuing Notice to Quit to the tenant concerned.

For further helpful information about rats and other pests please visit website of the Bristol Pest Control Association - <https://bpca.org.uk/pest-advice/a-z-of-pests/134394>