



# RATS ARE COMING!



## NORWAY RAT

With winter upon us there is very little food for rats outside. For this reason Norway rats tend to migrate inside where there is food, shelter and warmth. Rats are tough to control.

One of the primary reasons that Norway rat problems rebound so quickly is their high reproductive rate. A Norway rat population can quickly recover after a knockdown, whether from natural causes, such as a flood, or from pest control service.

Given plenty of food, water and shelter, Norway rat populations can grow rapidly. In ideal conditions, a small family of rats can grow into hundreds in less than a year. The Norway rat's high reproductive rate is a result of three key factors: young age at first breeding, large average litter size, and a high number of litters per year. A female can first breed at the age of 3 months. Her average litter size is 10 young and she averages 5 litters a year.

Norway rats can breed year round, but they tend to have breeding peaks in the spring and autumn. Breeding may stop in the hottest part of the summer and coldest part of the winter. Females can come into heat only a day or two after birthing a litter, and again every four or five days. A female Norway rat can theoretically give birth to over 40 young per year, but she typically will only successfully wean about 20. But those offspring will be able to breed in three months. And so the rat population grows.

One factor that tends to keep populations from growing at theoretically high rates is rat mortality. While Norway rats in a cage in a lab may live three or four or more years, rats living in the wild rarely die a natural death. Life is precarious from the very first, with new-born rats being eaten by older rats, and many dying even before they are weaned. Others are killed by snakes, owls, other predators, other rats, disease, population stress, and pest control operators. The average life expectancy for a Norway rat living in the wild is one year or less.

## BOOK NOW

**General Pest Management (Structural Pest Control)**

**Port Elizabeth**

**R4 150.00**

**21-23 May 2012**

## UPCOMING COURSES

### GENERAL PEST CONTROL PROGRAM

14-16 MAY 2012 PRETORIA

21-23 MAY 2012 PORT ELIZABETH

18-20 JUNE 2012 PRETORIA

16-18 JULY 2012 PRETORIA

### WEED CONTROL

28-30 MAY 2012 PRETORIA

9-11 JULY 2012 PRETORIA

10-12 SEPTEMBER 2012

### TERMITE & WOOD DESTROYING ORGANISMS

4-6 JUNE 2012 PRETORIA

30 JULY-1 AUG 2012 PRETORIA

### FUMIGATION

11-13 JUNE 2012 PRETORIA

6-8 AUGUST 2012 PRETORIA

8-10 OCTOBER 2012

### PLANT PEST & DISEASES

28-30 MAY 2012 PRETORIA

9-11 JULY 2012 PRETORIA

10-12 SEPTEMBER 2012

PRETORIA

### WOOD PRESERVATION OF UTILITY POLES

4-6 JUNE 2012 PRETORIA

30 JULY 1 AUG 2012 PRETORIA

*PMA COURSES ARE ACCREDITED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRISETA & SAQA*

FET REGISTRATION NO: 2012/ FE07/001

## PEST CONTROL TRAINING ACADEMY / SCHOOL

### Professional Services Offered:

- training of pest control operators | practical assessments of pest control operators | mentoring of pest control operators | supervision of trainee pest control operators | pest control helpline | pest identification service | food safety / HACCP training and auditing | food safety / PRP registers | ISPM 15 training and certification | green pest management / control | pest management operations manuals

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