



Maricopa County

News Release

Environmental Services Department

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MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Please call Jeanene Fowler (602-506-6611) to schedule an interview with John Townsend TODAY between 10 – 11 a.m. at 1001 N. Central.

Roof Rats Identified in Mesa and Glendale

PHOENIX (January 16, 2004) –As reported today in the Arizona Republic and East Valley Tribune, roof rats were identified late yesterday in Mesa and Glendale. In Mesa, the rat was found at Dobson and Guadalupe. In Glendale the rat was brought in by a cat around the area of 51st Avenue and Peoria.

Roof Rats have also been identified in the areas around Rural and Southern in Tempe. Earlier this week, the City of Tempe hosted a public meeting to educate its residents about how to protect their homes from roof rats. Presenters at this meeting included John Townsend from Maricopa County Vector Control and Barry Paceley from Arcadia's Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign.

"The key to managing roof rats is education," said John Townsend, manager for Maricopa County Vector Control. "We are working with the municipalities to educate citizens about how to protect their properties from roof rat infestations."

Roof Rats were first discovered in Maricopa County in 2001 in East Phoenix and Scottsdale neighborhoods. Through a partnership with Maricopa County, City of Scottsdale and Arcadia's aggressive Neighbor to Neighbor program, neighbors have learned that annual removal of food sources and overgrown vegetation on their properties are the most effective way to curtail individual property infestations.

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