



MARICOPA COUNTY
Board of Supervisors, District 2
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MARICOPA COUNTY ADDRESSING ROOF RAT PROBLEM IN ARCADIA *Invites Public to Neighborhood Meeting February 13*

(Phoenix)— Officials from Maricopa County Vector Control (MCVC) are aggressively working with the Arcadia neighborhood in east Phoenix to help residents get rid of “Roof Rats” that are invading the neighborhood. MCVC will hold a neighborhood meeting on **Wednesday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ingleside Middle School Cafeteria, 5402 E. Osborn, Phoenix** to update local residents on the eradication process and answer questions.

Vector Control staff is distributing educational information to the Arcadia community through churches, neighborhood associations, schools, door to door and on the County’s Web site www.maricopa.gov. Phones at the Vector Control office and Citizen’s Environmental Complaint Line are staffed to respond to calls about the problem. In addition, the Board of Supervisors today asked the federal government for assistance in eradicating the rats.

“We understand this is a disturbing problem for Arcadia residents” says Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Don Stapley. “Maricopa County is advising the residents on safe ways to get rid of the rats themselves and is watching to minimize health risks in the community. I’ve just signed a request for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to look at the problem and see what they can do to help.”

Roof rats are urban dwelling rats that are not native to Arizona. This rodent is an undesirable “colonist” as they have a reputation for causing damage to homes and buildings, stored food and produce, etc. As the name implies, roof rats are superb climbers and are often heard climbing on rooftops and awnings, or observed climbing in trees, crawling along railings, etc. They are most active at night and may eat a variety of foods, including uncovered garbage, pet food, fruit / citrus on tree limbs and on the ground, etc. Due to the abundance of food sources in the city, this rat problem has potential to spread quickly and widely.

Here is what the public can do to help:

Eliminate Food Sources

- Keep garbage containers tightly covered.
- Store bulk foods in sealed, rat-proof containers.
- Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight.
- Promptly pick-up any fallen fruit from citrus trees, etc.
- When possible, harvest citrus crops promptly and completely.

Control /Kill Roof Rats

- Consult a professional exterminator.
- Trap rats with large size spring-loaded “snap” traps or glue boards that can be purchased at hardware or feed stores. Bait traps with peanut butter and place them in areas with known rat activity. Identify good trapping sites by the presence of rat droppings, gnaw marks or where you have seen or heard them in the recent past. Be extra careful where you place large sized rat traps as the powerful spring can injure children and pets. PLEASE NOTE: It is essential to eliminate other sources of food before trapping.
- Poison Baits: If you choose to use poison baits, use only products that are designed and labeled for controlling rats, and read and follow label instructions carefully. Be extremely careful where you place poison baits to protect children, pets, and non-target animals.

For more information, contact Maricopa County Vector Control at (602) 506-0700.

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