

From: [Golmohammadi, Dr. Kamran](#)
To: [Ian Wilson](#)
Cc: [Stajduhar, Linda](#); [Jacobsen, Jennifer](#)
Subject: RE: Rat question
Date: Friday, August 14, 2015 10:55:17 AM

Hi Ian,

When people report seeing rats in their surrounding areas, they are often referring to larger size rodents as a general term. The two more commonly rats seen in Kelowna are brown rats (also known as Norway rat or sewer rat), and black rats (also known as ship rat or roof rat). Different types of rodents are reported to transmit disease to human directly or indirectly.

Diseases directly transmitted from rodents include:

- Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome
- Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome
- Lassa Fever
- Leptospirosis
- Lymphocytic Chorio-meningitis
- Omsk Hemorrhagic Fever
- Plague
- Rat-Bite Fever
- Salmonellosis
- South American Arenaviruses
- Tularemia

Diseases indirectly transmitted by rodents include:

- Babesiosis
- Colorado Tick Fever
- Cutaneous Leishmaniasis
- Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis
- La Crosse Encephalitis
- Lyme Disease
- Murine Typhus
- Omsk Hemorrhagic Fever
- Powassan Virus
- Scrub Typhus
- Rickettsialpox
- Relapsing Fever
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Sylvatic Typhus
- West Nile Virus

It is very important to know that infectious diseases that are transmitted by rodents are rarely seen in Canada. A recent study showed that some rats that were trapped over the course of one year in

Vancouver Downtown Eastside, tested positive for leptospira, a bacteria that causes Leptospirosis. But the disease is rarely seen in Canada and over the past decades only few cases of leptospirosis reported in Canada that all were travel related.

Please find below, one of the best information sources regarding rodents in BC. You can share their web link with the public:

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile37.stm>

Today, I spoke with Jen Jacobsen, Public Health Inspector and Supervisor with Interior Health who has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience in this area to our public health team. She will follow-up with you.

Sincerely
Kamran

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From: Ian Wilson [<mailto:IWilson@kelowna.ca>]
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 9:15 AM
To: Stajduhar, Linda
Cc: Amanda Lamberti; Blair Stewart
Subject: Rat question

Linda, as per our phone conversation, the City of Kelowna is getting a lot of public calls and concerns about rats this year. Rats are new to the Okanagan, we've never had a rat problem until recently.

Some of the questions are related to public health concerns. Could you please pass the following questions on to our local Medical Health Officer?

- I know that there are some potential health concerns with rats. How serious are these concerns – I'd appreciate if the MHO could comment.
- Does Interior Health have any information available regarding the health impacts of rats, e.g. on the IHA website? Do you have some information or a web link that we can share with the public?
- Any other comments or advice from a public health perspective is appreciated

thanks

Ian Wilson

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