

Success Story

Erie County



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ECDOH Vector Control Program is Winning the War on Rats

There are several components to the Vector Control Program's war on rats including "Operation Clean Sweep," the Rodent Control Program, the Rat Blitz Program, the Dumpster/Garbage Compliance Blitz and the Regional Law Enforcement & Enforcement Program.

Through "Operation Clean Sweep," the center point of the war on rats, ECDOH staff partner with local municipalities to assist them with implementing the use of garbage storage totes and enacting rodent control laws. These actions help to eliminate the primary food supply for rats. Also, rodents can carry Leptospirosis, a serious life-threatening bacterial disease that can infect dogs and other animals and can affect human health.

As result of Operation Clean Sweep activities:

- **Rat complaints in Tonawanda have decreased 64% over one year period.**
- **Confirmed cases of Leptospirosis in dogs have decreased significantly.**
- **Garbage tote programs have been implemented** in the Towns of Amherst and Tonawanda, along with the Villages of Williamsville and Kenmore and the Cities of Buffalo & Tonawanda. The Towns of Cheektowaga & West Seneca, along with the Village of Lancaster have implemented laws pertaining to the proper disposal of garbage. Other municipalities are reviewing the possibility of implementing similar programs.

The ECDOH encourages Erie County residents to take the following measures around their homes to reduce the risk of rodent infestation:

- Store garbage in covered containers at all times.
- Do not leave food outside, keep yards free of trash and clean up after pets every day.
- Pile wood & other storage materials away from walls and at least 18 inches above the ground.
- Make sure windows & doors close tightly, place heavy screening on all basement windows and seal any holes in your home's foundation.
- Fasten floor drains to keep rats from entering through sewers.

The complete Vector Control Program 2007 Annual Progress Report of the can be viewed at www.erie.gov/health/offices/eh_pest_control.asp.



Buffalo



Kenmore



Town of Tonawanda



Amherst



City of Tonawanda

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