
Population monitoring and management

Collection of pest management data used to improve rat control in Denmark

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DOI: 10.20315/evmc.2025.118

The Danish legislation (the Danish Statutory Order on prevention and control of rats) has made it mandatory for citizens to report actual or suspected occurrences of rats to the local authorities. The rat control is most often carried out by the local authority – for free, but citizens can also choose to use a private PCO, this however is not free of charge and will be covered by the citizen. Whether rat control is done by the local authority or a private PCO, there is a requirement that rat control may only be carried out by an authorized person. When carrying out rat control, the authorized person must make a mandatory report (online). The reported data are automatically transferred to a central database and here the data are available for local authorities and DEPA. The database is owned by DEPA and all the Danish municipalities. DEPA and the municipalities supervise that all rat control (the municipal or the private) comply with this requirement. This gives opportunity to extract various and adequate data for the control of rats in Denmark, at local and national level and use these data to suggest improvement for rat control in general.

Here we present examples of data that provide detailed and valid information about: (i) the development in reports of rat occurrences from 2015 until 2024; (ii) the most common causes to rat occurrences; (iii) the development in use of chemical and non-chemical control methods; (iv) variation of reports over the year, and between rural and urban areas.