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# WeekendPost

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“ It even went on holiday to Spain with me one year. It travelled to Zambia with me. ”



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## Keeping rodents at bay 'should be commitment'

2010/03/29

WITH regard to the letter sent in by Carol Ann Isaacs, many factors account for the increase in rat infestations that are currently experienced in many of our inner city areas. Urbanisation and globalisation have increased the pressure on the sanitation system currently in place. Add to this the increase in the amount of waste being produced and you have a recipe for disaster.

As president of the South African Pest Control Association I recommend a more systematic approach should be used rather than the one currently in use by local authorities. Due to the prolific breeding capacity of rodents, block baiting must be followed up and a surplus baiting strategy should be followed.

Surplus baiting is when bait is regularly placed until there is no uptake on the bait, this indicating that the existing infestation has been eliminated.

The amount of bait required is directly proportional to the size of the infestation since rodents consume 10% of their body mass per day, therefore a small colony of about 100 rats will consume 2-5kg of food daily, contaminating 10 times as much.

The public should take responsibility and ensure that the areas in and around their homes and workplace are kept tidy and free of rodent infestations.

Making use of a registered pest management company will effectively eliminate rodents.

The occurrence of the 2010 World Cup has forced local authorities to make more funds available to efficiently address this problem. Eliminating all rat infestation before kick-off 2010 is almost if not impossible, as it is a long term commitment.

MARK ENSLIN

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