



If You Want Something Done, Do it Yourself: Dover Man Shoots Rats

Written by Avalon Lustick on June 29, 2018 11:48 am.

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DOVER — Some Dover residents have taken solving the city-wide rat infestation into their own hands.

Keith Derusha, of Dover, took action after rats kept showing up in his backyard.

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DeRusha, a resident of the Park Street and Coolidge Avenue area for over 20 years, bought a BB gun at Walmart and went to work when he first started to see rats about a month ago.

Out of six rat targets, the experienced hunter said he has three confirmed kills.

One of the rats he described as "a good size rat" weighing an estimated 1 pound. DeRusha disposes of the rats by putting the bodies in plastic bags, putting them in the garbage and waiting for trash day.

What DeRusha is doing is legal.

Derusha checked with New Hampshire Fish and Game and confirmed that there are no restrictions in New Hampshire when it comes to shooting woodchucks, porcupines, English sparrows, European starlings, common feral pigeons, red squirrels and other rodents with BB guns.

Dover is not the only city in the Granite State with a rat problem.

Since 2012, the Portsmouth Police Department has had a rat infestation issue.

What once was an issue of finding 12-15 rats scurrying about has lowered to discovering one or two new roommates a month, said Portsmouth police Administrative Manager Karen Senecal.

The rats have been found in the kitchen and women's restroom and workers in the information technologies office can hear the rats scurry about in the ceiling.

Whether or not Portsmouth has a citywide problem is unknown.

Though Senecal said that when the Portsmouth Middle School was under renovation in 2012, the rats in that area must have been misplaced.

The pond was no feat for the rodents, since rats can swim up to a half a mile in water, perfect for a finding a new potential home at the police department.

Now that the department is under renovation, the lack of rats present could be a result of the pest termination work the police have hired or just another case of misplacement for the rats.

Or maybe they got word that DeRusha is nearby.

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