

ARTICLE III. RODENT CONTROL*

Sec. 7-66. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Hardware cloth means wire screening of such thickness and spacing as to afford reasonable protection against the entrance of rats and mice.

Owner or manager. Any person in actual possession of or charge, care or control of any property within the City shall be deemed the owner or manager of such property. When an entire premises or building is occupied as a place of business, the person in charge of such business shall be considered the owner or manager.

Rat harborage means any place where rats can live without fear of frequent molestation or disturbance.

Ratproof container means a container constructed of concrete or metal, or lined with metal or other material, that is impervious to rats. Openings into the container such as doors shall be tight fitting to prevent the entrance of rats.

Ratproofing means closing openings in building foundations and openings under and around doors, windows, vents and other places which could provide means of entry for rats with concrete, sheet iron, hardware cloth or other types of ratproofing material approved by the Health Officer.

(Code 1965, §7.12(1))

Cross reference(s) – Definitions and rules of construction generally, §1-2.Administration, Ch. 2; Board of Health, §2-76 et seq.; boards, committees, commissions, §2-51 et seq., Buildings and building regulations, Ch. 4; nuisances, Ch. 12.

Sec. 7-67. Elimination of rat harborages.

Whenever accumulation of rubbish, boxes, lumber, scrap metal, car bodies or any other materials provide rat harborage, the person owning or in control of such materials shall cause the materials to be removed, or the materials shall be stored as to eliminate the rat harborage. Lumber, boxes and similar materials shall be neatly piled. These piles shall be raised at least one (1) foot above the ground. When the owner of the materials cannot be found after reasonable search, the owner or manager of the premises on which the materials are stored shall be responsible for disposal or proper piling of the materials.

(Code 1965, §7.12(2))

Sec. 7-68. Elimination of rat feeding places.

No person shall place or allow to accumulate any materials that may serve as food for rats in a site accessible to rats. Any waste material that may serve as food for rats shall be stored in ratproof containers. Feed for birds shall be placed in raised platforms or such feed shall be placed where it is not accessible to rats.

(Code 1965, §7.12(3))

Sec. 7-69. Ratproofing of buildings.

(a) **Generally.** The owner or manager of any building in the City shall make such building reasonably ratproof, replace broken basement windows and, when necessary, cover the basement window opening with hardware cloth or other suitable material for preventing rats from entering the building through such window openings.

(b) **Sheds, barns and similar buildings.** The owner or manager of any premises upon which sheds, barns, coops or similar buildings are located shall eliminate the rat harborages from within and under such buildings by ratproofing, raising the buildings above the ground, or by some other suitable method, or such sheds, barns, coops or other buildings shall be razed.

(Code 1965, §7.12(5))

Sec. 7-70. Extermination.

(a) **Residential premises.** Whenever rat holes, burrows, or other evidence of rat infestation are found on any residential premises within the city, the Health Department shall be notified of existing conditions. Upon verification of such conditions, the Health Officer, or designee, shall notify the owner or owners of the infested premises of the infestation and make such orders as necessary to exterminate the rats. ~~Whenever rat holes, burrows or other evidence of rat infestation are found on any residential premises within the City, the Health Department shall be notified of existing conditions. Upon verification of conditions, the Health Department will be responsible for placing bait outside the structure for the extermination of rats.~~

(b) **Other premises.** Whenever rat holes, burrows, or other evidence of rat infestation are found on any ~~other~~ premises or building within the ~~City~~city that is not included in subsection (a), the owner or manager of such property shall exterminate the rats. Within fourteen (14) days after extermination, the owner or manager shall cause all of the rat holes or burrows in the ground to be filled with earth or other suitable material.

(c) **Penalty for violation of this section.**

Any person who violates any provision of this section, including any lawful orders issued by the Health Officer or designee, shall forfeit not less than \$50, plus the cost of the action. Each violation and each day that a violation continues or occurs shall constitute a separate offense. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the City from maintaining any other appropriate action or actions to prevent and/or remove a violation of this article.

(Code 1965, 7.12(4))

Sec. 7-71 Interpretation of article.

Nothing in this article shall be construed or interpreted to in any way impair or limit the authority of the City to define or declare nuisances or of the Inspection Supervisor or the Health Department to cause the removal or abatement of nuisances, summary proceedings, or other applicable orders or proceedings.

Secs. 7-~~71~~72 – 7-99. Reserved.