

House Mouse

This species is considered an extremely high pest risk due to its high reproductive rate. It generally likes to settle in the same places inhabited by humans (houses, garages, cellars, attics). It eats 15 to 20 times a day, consuming very small amounts of food each time. Generally, it doesn't stray far from its hiding place and doesn't appear during the day. Seeing one out in the open during the day indicates that there is an overabundance of the murine population which must search for food at the risk of jeopardising its own survival. It is a very lively little mouse which is curious but cautious. It moves gracefully and is capable of swimming. It feeds on all types of substances, but prefers fatty foods, grains and cheese, etc. In addition to water, it drinks spirits and sweet and oily liquids.



Water Vole

This small species has a vegetarian diet. It mainly feeds on the fleshy parts of plants, especially tubers and bulbs. It often gnaws the bark at the base of trees. They cause a lot of damage to agricultural crops, vegetable gardens and gardens in general.



Black Rat

This species is prevalently nocturnal. In general, it colonises attics, silos and often the crowns of trees, in particular those of maritime pines and palms. It has an omnivorous diet. It especially likes plastic materials and loves gnawing on electrical cables. It can cause serious damage by contaminating foods and environments.



Sewer Rat

This species is considered to be the most dangerous because it can spread possible epidemics. It lives in numerous colonies. It is a good swimmer. It digs underground tunnels where it builds its nests, usually in earth near waterways or in unkempt and neglected areas. It is an omnivore, preferring animal proteins. Vigorous and aggressive, it attacks and kills small pets. It is highly adaptable and is as smart as it is prudent.



Nutria

This species is a rodent mammal. It is very similar to the South American beaver which was commercially exploited for its fur. Due to the failure of such farms, many nutria were intentionally released into the wild to avoid the costs associated with their slaughter and the disposal of their carcasses. In addition to accidental escapes, a large population of nutria has subsequently grown. It has adapted well to humid European environments, especially the most polluted ones. Population numbers have notably increased in recent years, spreading to the Po Valley, along the Adriatic coast up to Abruzzo and on the Tyrrhenian side of Lazio.

It is considered one of 100 most harmful species in the world due to its destruction of the ecological balance in the areas that it colonises. Consequently, it is necessary to adopt drastic measures to contain it.–

It feeds on agricultural crops and algae and aquatic plants. Its overpopulation can cause considerable economic damage to the agricultural crops and environmental damage to river banks where it likes to build its dens.



Characteristic/Feature	House Mouse	Water Vole	Black Rat	Sewer Rat	Nutria
Body	Small and slim	Small	Tapered	Large and robust	Large and robust
Average weight	12 - 25 g	14 - 46 g	150 - 250 g	200 - 500 g	5 - 10 kg
Length (head + body)	6 - 9 cm	8 - 12 cm	16 - 20 cm	18 - 25 cm	60 cm
Snout	Tapered	Rounded	Tapered	Rounded	Rounded
Ears	Large and long	Small	Well developed	Small	Small
Eyes	Small	Small	Large and protruding	Small	Small
Tail	Small and dark	Dark	Hairless scales	Dark on top, light underneath	Cylindrical
Fur	Light brown	Greyish beige	Dark grey with silver highlights	Patchy brown on the back, lighter on the belly	Thick dark brown
	Shaped like grains of rice	Black or greenish cylinders	Elongated, pointed	Shaped like black rice grains	Shaped like elliptical olives
Excrement					
Paw Prints					
Diet	Cereal grains	Vegetarian	Omnivore	Omnivore	Herbivore
Nest	In houses, nooks and crannies, pantries	Holes. Sometimes they occupy mole holes	Between walls, in ceilings, silos, trees, high places	Underground dens	River banks
Average lifespan	12 - 18 months	Average lifespan	12 – 18 months	Average lifespan	12 - 18 months
Sexual maturity	1 month + 15 days	15 - 30 days	3 months	3 months	6 months
Pups per litter	5 - 7	10 - 12	6 - 10	8 - 12	3 - 6
Litters per year	8	8	6	7	3