

## Roof Rat Reminder

We've come a long way in getting rid of the rampant roof rat population at VM6 but we have lots of new neighbors who need to know what to do, and also remind our long-standing neighbors that we must still be very diligent about keeping them at bay.

We are at the height of the rat mating season now so here's the most important things to remember and do:

- Remove all food sources and clean up your yard!
  - Remove any remaining citrus fruit from trees by **June 1**. Compliance is required under the CC&R's with penalties attached for non-compliance. Fruit pickers are available through the HOA and can be loaned out.
  - Remove dead tree branches and trim away from roof tops.
  - Vines provide rats easy access into your yard and onto your roof. Consider thinning them out and removing dead branches.
  - Rats love nesting in thick bushes especially Oleander, untrimmed Palm Trees, and Cyprus Trees. Ensure they are well-trimmed and debris removed.
  - Remove unnecessary water sources especially leaky faucets, leaky sprinkler head and leaky irrigation lines.
  - Don't feed Pigeons! It's against the VM6 Rules and Regulations. Uneaten seed left on the ground is food for rats. They also create pigeon droppings which attract rats, create foul odors, spread bacteria, and create an unwelcome mess for neighbors.
  - Pick up dog food and water bowls when done.
- Cover roof vents and drain-pipes with appropriate netting to ensure rats don't get into your home, walls and food supply. Also, ensure doors, windows, and screens fit tightly in their frames to also prevent them from getting in your home.