



Baltimore County attacks rat infestation in Essex

By Kim Dacey, May 11, 2016, Baltimore, USA

In Baltimore County, it's all about the rat attack and what the county is doing to help problem areas eradicate their rodent issues.

"I saw him run from there and he came across the yard and went under the fence," Essex resident Judy Eszes said.

Eszes is a longtime resident of the Foxridge neighborhood in Essex. She said they had a rat problem a few years back and now it seems the rodents have returned.

"It's just an ongoing problem. I know the neighbors have seen them, and they're trying to help eradicate them also, but it's just an ongoing problem," Eszes said.

She's not alone. Baltimore County's Code Enforcement Department said they've gotten a lot of complaints so Wednesday they sent professional exterminators out inspecting every yard.

"When they're looking for rat activity, they're looking for the actual rat hole and when they find a rat hole, they will put, they use a powder. It's called dye track, and they put it down into the rat hole. Then they collapse the hole," said Adam Whitlock, with Baltimore County Code Enforcement.

It's part of the county's ongoing rat attack program to eradicate rodents in problem areas, and residents in Essex are happy about it.

"I think it's really a blessing to do something like that because we don't need no rats," Essex resident Thomas Linhart said.

"I think it will work if everybody cooperates. I don't think we have a big or heavy infestation yet," Essex resident Bob Mongan said.

County officials agree the program works only as well as residents will cooperate.

"You have to control the food source for the rodents, so storing trash in containers with tight-fitting lids at all times, cleaning up after your dog, be careful when you feed other animals.

People like to put out bird feed or feed the squirrels. Unfortunately, rodents will eat that as well," Whitlock said.

Eszes is doing her part and hopes everyone else will, too, to curb the rodent problem for good.

"I hope it works. I really do. I don't want to come out here and be shaking hands with mice or rats or whatever," Eszes said.