



Rosedale residents upset over rats, rescue operation

Condo resident shows photos of rats infiltrating her home

By Barry Simms, wbalTV.com, Jan 15, 2016, Maryland, US

ROSEDALE, Md. —Residents in a Rosedale community are upset over not only a rat problem in their building, but also a family running a rat-rescue operation.

Going home to her Rosedale condo isn't always a pleasant experience for Karen Rogers. Her first floor is in disarray.

"I've had a bout with rats," Rogers said.

Carpet cleaners are coming to try to rid her home of a bad odor.

"It stinks. It smells like there's something dead. So far, I've had seven rats that I've either trapped or poisoned," Rogers said.

She has found the rodents in her living room, scurrying through the kitchen, in her sink and on her kitchen counters. Rogers and her neighbors complained to Baltimore County Code Enforcement and Animal Control.

"I guess I was a little hysterical, but if you had so many huge rats in your place, you would be hysterical, too," Rogers said.

Rogers has taken pictures of the problem, showing the rodents dead on her living room floor, in her sink and others crawling along her kitchen counters.

"I could sit on my sofa, and my neighbors were here, and the rats were running back and forth on the kitchen counter. They weren't even afraid of me. I was knocking on the counter. I threw stones at them," Rogers said.

The origin of the rats remains a mystery. Rogers and her neighbors think the rats had a safe haven, because in the same condo building exists a rat rescue, Butter's Rat House and Small Animal Rescue.

The 11 News I-Team tried to talk to Jeremy Tranter about the rat rescue. He said it closed two weeks ago and asked 11 News to leave. As the 11 News crew was leaving, Tranter called police, claiming 11 News trespassed onto the property and harassed him. He also blocked in the news vehicle, explaining to the county officer, "There's nothing wrong with having six rats and running a rescue for animals. When they come in, they go right out, and it's not that we're hoarding animals."

According to the county, Inspectors promptly responded to the complaints and found signs of rat activity in the neighborhood, but nothing to conclude the rats found in Rogers' condo came from her neighbor.

Rogers just wants the problem to end.

"I love my place. I want to continue living here. I just want it to be better circumstances," Rogers said.

The condo's management company found and sealed holes behind Rogers' washer and dryer and dishwasher. It also had an exterminator set traps. A spokesman claimed his office could do little more, saying, "The association has a lot of control over the common elements that are shared by the unit co-owners, but when it comes to activities and what's happening inside the properties, we're very limited in what can be done unless it presents a life safety issue."