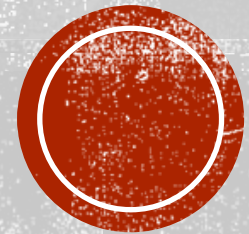


RODENT CONTROL IN WATERTOWN



PROBLEM

- The United States has experienced an increase in the rodent population over the past few years- causing a detriment to public health.
- Some causes could include...
 - Milder winters over the past few years
 - Construction and other noisy activities including digging and vibrations displaces the rodent population from their habitats.
 - COVID-19 Pandemic
- **Rats require food, harborage (a place to shelter), and water to survive.**
- One hundred percent elimination of rats in the community is not feasible. Therefore, 'Rodent Control Activities' are focused on **decreasing the rat population and their negative impact on humans.**



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)



Traditional Pest Control → Baiting and Trapping



IPM includes baiting and or trapping, but also managing the environment.

Is a decision making process in which all interventions are focused on the pest problem and providing the safest, most effective, economical and sustained remedy.



IPM ELEMENTS



- Education and Outreach
- Bait and Trap
- Infrastructure / Development Conditions
- Inspection Methods
- Enhance Sanitation
 - Trash and Composting
- Establish specific rules and regulations
 - Enforcement



INCREASE EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Attend events such as Farmer's Market and Faire on the Square, Recycling Events
- Promote in City locations such as Senior Center, City Hall, DPW
- Social Media
 - Increase Social Media presence
 - Education about rodents
 - Promote composting
 - Harborage

What is RODENT HARBORAGE, anyways?

You may have heard the word "harborage" in a few different contexts before, but in terms of rodents, it is their place to live and nest.

Take a look at some of the pictures below that show examples of the -perfect- harboring area for rodents. Trash piles, overgrown vegetation, and wood piles or tires in your yard can provide the rodents with harborage.



Rodent-Proof Your Home

Rats can enter the home through a hole that is the size of a quarter and mice are able to enter through a hole that is the size of a dime. Make sure to seal gaps and holes inside and outside the home that are bigger than a quarter of an inch in diameter with any of the following materials:

- Cement or cement mortar
- 19-Gauge or greater metal mesh, wire screening, or hardware cloth
- Heavy-duty caulk or elastomeric sealant
- Steel wool
- Expanding foam



WATCH FOR SIGNS OF

RATS

Look Out For...
Droppings
Gnaw Marks
Nesting Materials
Dark, Greasy Track Marks
Burrows In Yard



RODENTS

While you're starting your garden this year, remember to harvest your fruits and vegetables. Rats and other pests will feast on your left out bounty.



Remember to space out plants adequately as to not create harborage for pests. As well, you can view if any burrows are being created near your garden!





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

Issue:

- Development and Construction activities may displace rodents from their habitats

Current Status:

- Pre-construction meetings are held with developers to identify concerns (pest mitigation, selection of landscaping, waste storage, etc.)
- Public Meetings → Public input
- Issuance of permits with conditions
- Monitoring by Health and Code Enforcement on rodent mitigation condition
- Notification of permit when a new development with rodent conditions is approved



Issue: Building demolition and construction activities displace rodents and impact harborage

Current Status:

- The Health Department has a requirement for a rodent survey and treatment prior to demolition. This included at least 2 pest control visits which are spaced at least one week apart. If rodent activity is noted on property, a rodent mitigation plan is required, and property must show significant reduction in rodent activity before the demolition is allowed to proceed.
- Health Department reviews the demolition permits to ensure that the pest control is adequate.



Issue: Vacant and abandoned properties have the potential to harbor rodents and other pests.

Current Status:

- The Zoning and Health Departments monitor these properties for rodent and wildlife activity. Working collaboratory reduces the risk to the community and the neighboring properties.
- Outreach to property owners to gain compliance.



Issue:

- Road Construction and excavation has the potential to displace rodents.

Current Status:

- The DPW requires private entities that engage in major excavation in the public way to develop rodent control and response plans. Implementation prior to and during the activities.
- Incorporates multiple tactics such as traditional baiting, SMART boxes and expanding treatment areas.



DPW - WASTE MANAGEMENT

Issue:

- Improper trash handling can contribute to providing food and water sources for pests. The challenges of poor trash management practices by residents including placement of trash out on curbside days in advance of collection. Improper/illegal dumping is a source of food and harborage of pests.

Current Status:

- The City provides trash pick-up services and curbside food waste collection.
- Increased surveillance by addition of a Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator, which has led to increased community outreach and increase in proper trash management.
- Social media and waste management efforts have increased.



Issue:

- The City manages parks, cemeteries and other public open spaces; improper utilization of these properties can allow for the provision of food, water and harborage of rodents.

Current Status

- The DPW Parks and Cemeteries Divisions are responsible for maintenance of open spaces. Additionally, trash is routinely picked up from city trash receptacles by a dedicated team.
- The Department investigates potential rodent harborage sites and remediates in a timely manner.
- Illegal dumping and improper disposal of waste including windblown trash is removed routinely by the DPW department.
- Continued response to dead animal removal requests from residents on public property.
- Continuing utilization of non-SGAR rodenticides that pose minimal risk to non-target animals.



Issue:

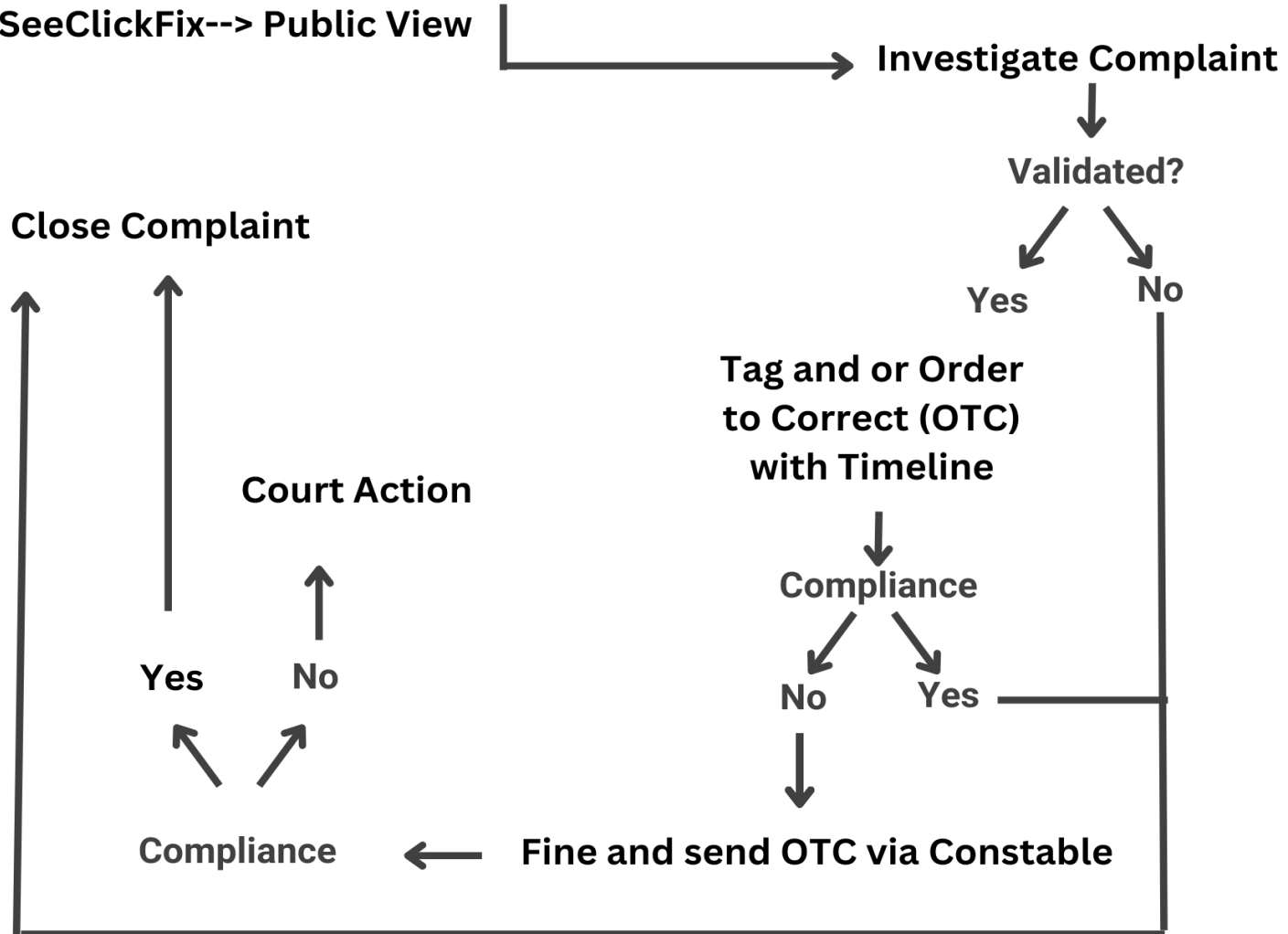
- Waste that is generated from City owned buildings such as the schools, Administration Building, etc. provides food for rodents

Current Status:

- Public buildings manages the trash generated at City owned buildings and ensures it is properly disposed of.
- Utilizes IPM methods to prevent rodents and takes acts accordingly to manage present rodent population.

Receive a complaint

- Phone call /Email / In-person--> Opengov (internal)
- SeeClickFix--> Public View



HEALTH DEPARTMENT- COMPLAINT PROCESS



IN PROCESS

“Problem” Property Working Group



Working Group will target properties with violations from all applicable departments



Working group to be comprised of...

Health Department

Zoning / Code
Enforcement

Building Department

Fire Department

Police Department



IN PROCESS

- Increase Compost Program
 - Collaborate with DPW
 - Attend Events such as Farmer's Market, Faire on the Square and DPW Recycling Events to distribute information and answer questions about the program
 - Promote in City locations such as Senior Center, City Hall

Less Trash + Proper Composting = Decrease in Rodent Population



IN PROCESS

More comprehensive health conditions...

Demolition Requirements-Provide a plan for the control, mitigation of on-site noise, odors, dust, asbestos, and rodent abatement to the Health Department

1. Asbestos Inspection and Removal - Provide an affidavit from a certified Asbestos Inspector stating that the asbestos has been removed in accordance with MA D.E.P. Regulations or no asbestos was present.
2. Rodent Control Assessment and Mitigation Plans for Rodents / Pests reports including... but not limited to...
 - Type of baiting / amount replaced
 - General comments
 - Date / Time / Location
 - Conditions and observations / Pest activity
3. Dust Mitigation Plan - Submit a letter indicating how to control the dust and particles from leaving the property

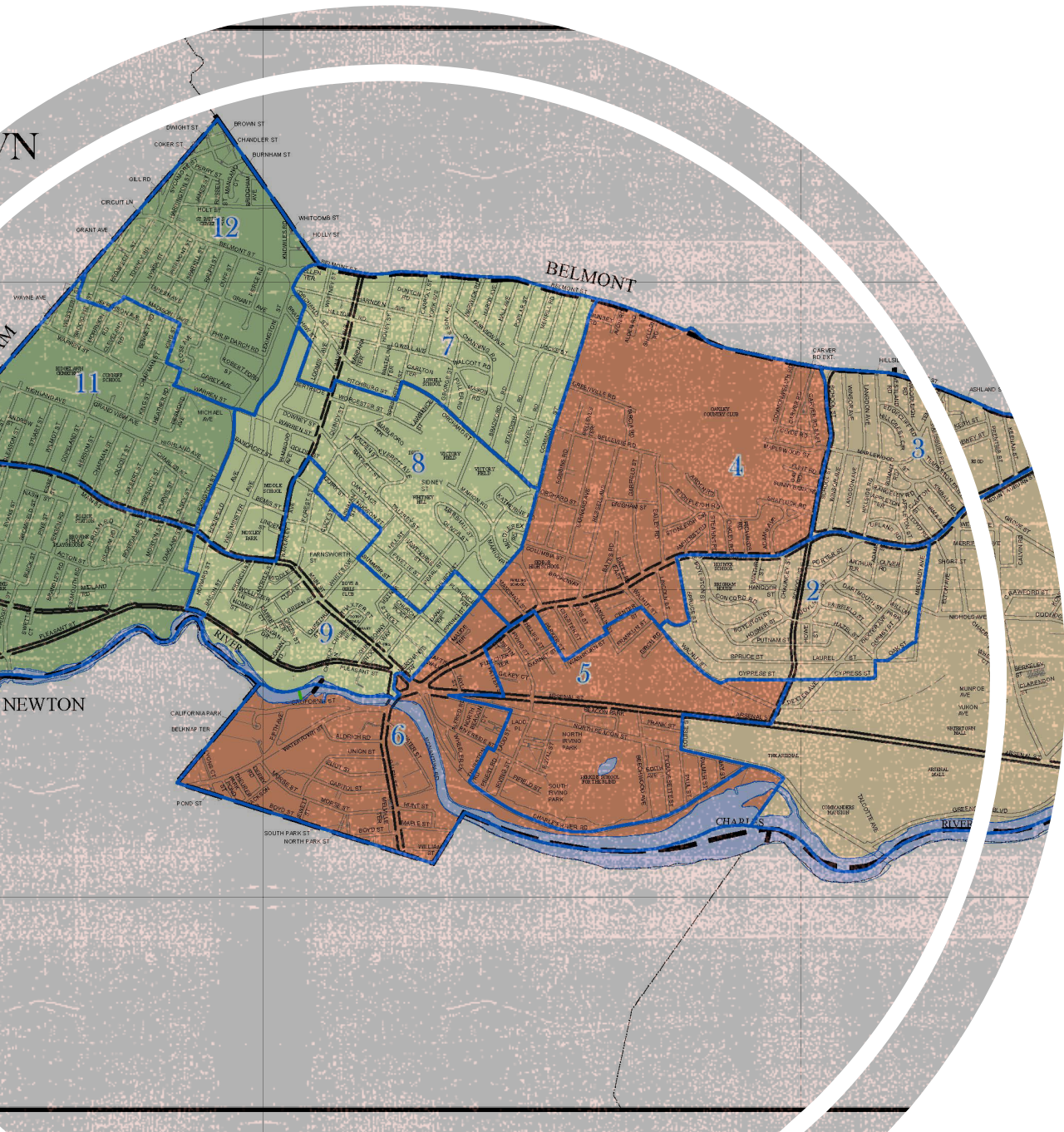


IN PROCESS CONT.

- *For ongoing construction projects- monthly rodent / pest control, including inspections on unoccupied properties required while site is not in active use ie. vacant, construction has not commenced yet....
- ** Health Department has the right to request increase in pest control if deemed necessary due increased rodent activity to protect public health and safety.

Similar process for larger scale properties





IN PROCESS

- Mapping areas baited
 - With the help of Community Development and Planning
 - Reduce overlap
 - Compare with complaints



IN PROCESS / FUTURE

Utilize Opengov → Ensure rodent control is being met for any applicable projects

Bi-Monthly Rodent Control Working Group Meetings till there is a reduction in rodent population (by complaints & number of locations) to discuss status of rodent mitigation plans

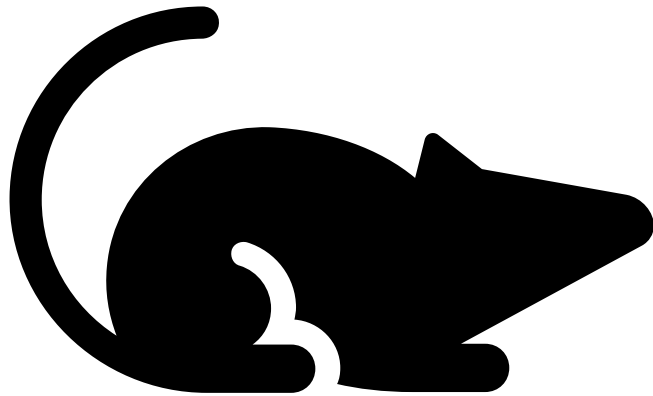
Reducing harborage locations

Better communication with other departments

Trash Ordinance from Department of Public Works

More routinely baiting sewers





FUTURE

- Dumpster Regulations → Rodent Control Working Group → Board of Health
- Create a draft / sample Rodent Mitigation Policy for
 - Contractors working on city property
 - Foundation permits → Building Department
 - Trench permits → Building and DPW
- Create a step in Opengov to review / approve rodent mitigation plans before permits are issued (potential)

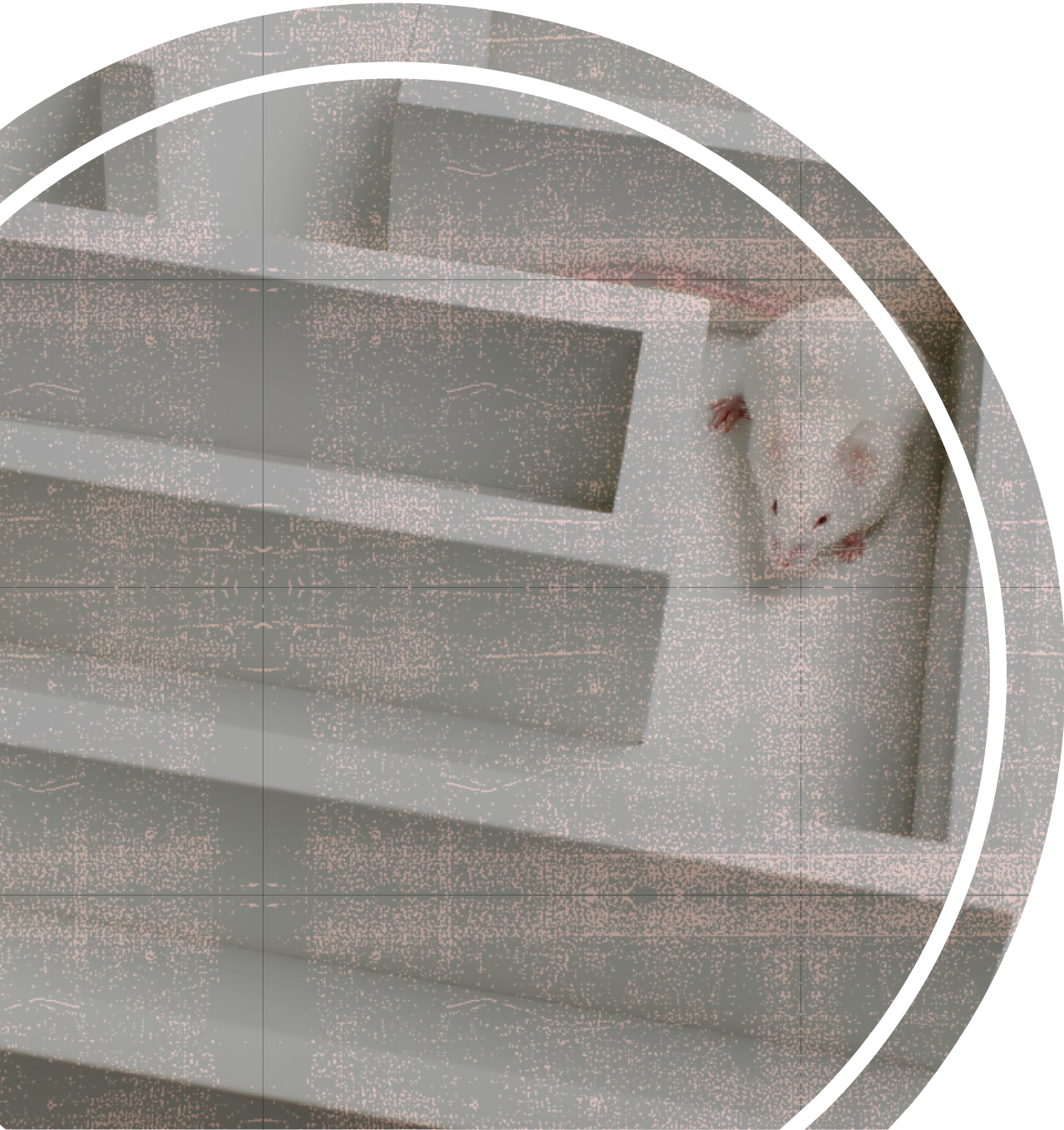


FUTURE



- Health Officer- Pest Enforcer identify areas of concerns on public properties and remediate
 - Identify problem
 - Report to Health Department and other applicable departments
 - Engage applicable city department or city contractors to remediate / remove OR
 - Order property owner (in writing) to remediate
- Example
 - Health Officer discovers burrows on city sidewalk→ Health Officer informs Health and DPW→ Health to treat for rodents→ DPW to fill in burrows→ Health Officer to check for compliance.





FUTURE

- Inspection Methods- Utilize Opengov
 - Create inspection form for rodents only
 - Quicker and more efficient



QUESTIONS?

