



# Prevention of Rodent-borne Diseases in Construction Sites and Disused/Vacant Lands



食物環境衛生署  
Food and Environmental  
Hygiene Department





## **Rodent-borne diseases:**

Some unattended construction sites and disused / vacant lands may be covered by overgrown grass. They may become playgrounds of stray dogs and breeding grounds of rodents. Mites and ticks that live on the bodies of these animals may carry pathogens capable of causing scrub typhus and tick-borne spotted fever. These arthropods usually cluster at tips of grasses for easy attachment to the bodies of animals (e.g. stray / guard dogs and rodents) and passers-by.

### **Scrub typhus**

Scrub typhus is transmitted by bites of infective Trombiculid mite larvae. Trombiculid mites are small, only 1-2 millimetre in length, and red in colour. Some wild rodents may carry the larvae of the mites on their bodies. On man, the larvae congregate at areas where clothing is tight against the skin such as around the waist or the ankles.

### **Tick-borne spotted fever**

Tick-borne spotted fever is transmitted by bites of infective ticks belonging to family Ixodidae and Argasidae. This disease could also be contracted through crushing of infective ticks or their faeces into abrasions or eyes.

Most larval ticks cluster at tips of grasses or leaves and seek for their preferred animals. Animals such as dogs and rodents may carry ticks on their bodies.

## **Advice to the owner / management – preventive measures**

- ◆ Trim the grass on the land regularly to not higher than 30 centimetres;
- ◆ Remove the scrub / grass before starting work on the land;
- ◆ Fence off the land by installing strong wire meshes, preferably with apertures not greater than 6 millimetres in diameter for the part up to 1 metre from the ground, for preventing the intrusion of stray dogs and rodents;
- ◆ Examine guard dogs for ecto-parasites and disinfect them regularly;
- ◆ Conduct regular inspections for rodent signs and ensure that there is no accumulation of refuse, disused articles or food remnants;
- ◆ Store goods / construction materials properly for easy detection of rodent and stray dog problems;
- ◆ Appoint trained personnel or pest control company to handle rodent and pest problems; and
- ◆ Apply insect repellent such as insect repellent containing 10%-30% concentration of DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) on clothing or skin according to label instructions when entering the land.

## **Enquiries**

For further information on prevention of diseases transmitted in construction sites and disused lands, please contact the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department on 2868 0000. To report rodent problems, please contact the Department's district environmental hygiene offices. Their addresses and telephone numbers are listed on the back page.

# ENQUIRIES

## Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Hotline : 2868 0000

### Central / Western

10th Floor, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building,  
345 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong  
Tel : 2545 0506

### Wan Chai

7th Floor, Lockhart Road Municipal Services Building,  
225 Hennessy Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong  
Tel : 2507 3364

### Eastern

3rd Floor, Quarry Bay Municipal Services Building,  
38 Quarry Bay Street, Hong Kong  
Tel : 2563 4340

### Southern

4th Floor, Aberdeen Municipal Services Building,  
203 Aberdeen Main Road, Hong Kong  
Tel : 2552 8406

### Kwun Tong

Level 7, Shui Wo Street Municipal Services Building,  
9 Shui Wo Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon  
Tel : 3102 7388

### Wong Tai Sin

3rd Floor, Tai Shing Street Market Building,  
121 Choi Hung Road, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon  
Tel : 2328 6531

### Kowloon City

3rd & 4th Floors, To Kwa Wan Market & Government Offices,  
165 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon  
Tel : 2711 2493

### Yau Tsim

3rd & 4th Floors, Kwun Chung Municipal Services Building,  
17 Bowring Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon  
Tel : 2302 1299

### Mong Kok

6th & 7th Floors, Fa Yuen Street Municipal Services Building,  
123A Fa Yuen Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon  
Tel : 2395 2727

### Sham Shui Po

8th-10th Floors, Un Chau Street Municipal Services Building,  
59-63 Un Chau Street,  
Sham Shui Po, Kowloon  
Tel : 2748 6959

### Islands

6th Floor, Harbour Building,  
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong  
Tel : 2852 3215

### Kwai Tsing

9th Floor, Kwai Hing Government Offices Building,  
166-174 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, N.T.  
Tel : 2420 9204

### Tsuen Wan

3rd Floor, Yeung Uk Road Municipal Services Building,  
45 Yeung Uk Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.  
Tel : 2212 9701

### Tuen Mun

1st & 3rd Floors, Tuen Mun Government Offices Building,  
1 Tuen Hi Road, Tuen Mun, N.T.  
Tel : 2146 8642

### Yuen Long

2nd-5th Floors, Yuen Long Government Offices & Tai Kiu Market,  
2 Kiu Lok Square, Yuen Long, N.T.  
Tel : 2475 3433

### North

4th Floor, Shek Wu Hui Municipal Services Building,  
13 Chi Cheong Road, Sheung Shui, N.T.  
Tel : 2679 2812

### Tai Po

3rd Floor, Tai Po Complex,  
8 Heung Sze Wui Street, Tai Po, N.T.  
Tel : 3183 9119

### Sai Kung

8/F, Sai Kung Tseung Kwan O Government Complex,  
38 Pui Shing Road, Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung, N.T.  
Tel : 3740 5100

### Sha Tin

12th Floor, Tower 1, Grand Central Plaza,  
138 Sha Tin Rural Committee Road,  
Sha Tin, N.T.  
Tel : 2634 0136

### Pest Control Advisory Section

6/F, Yung Fung Shee Memorial Centre,  
79 Cha Kwo Ling Road, Lam Tin, Kowloon  
Tel : 3188 2064