

☒ Authority: [AS 16.05.255](#)

Anchorage Borough Ordinance

16.90.030 Rat control--Ownership or breeding of rats prohibited; report of presence of rats; extermination.

A. It shall be **unlawful for any person to import, buy, sell or breed** any member of the genus *Rattus* within the municipality, except in accordance with the terms of a written permit which has been issued therefore by the director of the department of health and human services. **The director may issue a permit only to scientists, scientific institutions, research institutions or government officers, agencies, boards or commissions** upon a determination that it is in the public interest to do so.

B. Any person who violates subsection A of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$1,000.00 for each offense, or injunctive relief to restrain the person from continuing the violation or threat of violation, or both injunctive relief and a civil penalty. Upon application for injunctive relief and a finding that a person is violating or threatening to violate subsection A of this section, the superior court shall grant injunctive relief to restrain the violation.

C. Any person who violates subsection A of this section shall be subject to a criminal fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$300.00 for each offense.

D. Each day of violation of subsection A of this section shall constitute a separate offense.

E. Any other person with knowledge of the presence of rats within the municipality shall immediately inform the department of health and human services of such knowledge.

F. The department of health and human services or its inspectors may inspect all places for the purpose of ascertaining whether they are infested with rats and whether the requirements of subsection E of this section as to their extermination and destruction are being complied with.

G. The director of the department of health and human services, upon a finding that an infestation of rats exists within the municipality and that subsection F of this section is not being complied with, may purchase poison, traps and other materials for the purpose of exterminating and destroying the rats, and may employ and pay inspectors to prosecute the work of extermination on both private and public property in the municipality.

H. Whenever a person in possession of a place that is subject to the mandate set forth in subsection E of this section fails to perform as therein required, the department of health and human services shall at once cause the rats to be exterminated.

I. The responsibility for payment of the expenses incurred under subsection H of this section shall rest jointly and severally upon the following:

1. The owners of the property where the extermination occurred.
2. The tenants of the property where the extermination occurred.
3. The persons residing on the property where the extermination occurred.
4. Any person legally responsible for the presence of a rat by reason of negligence or otherwise.

(AO No. 83-95; AO No. 85-8)

Cross references: Environmental protection, [Tit. 15](#) ; animals, [Tit. 17](#) .

16.90.040 Rat control--Exception for pet rats.

The director may permit retention of pet rats under justifiable circumstances as approved by the director. Children who are outside the state with a pet rat on July 28, 1983, may bring their pet rat back to the municipality.