



Dear resident,

Rats have been causing problems in several areas in De Heeg. To combat this, we started installing smart rat traps in some of De Heeg's sewers in summer 2022. This letter will tell you about the results so far as well as the next steps. We would also be happy to chat with you about this at an information evening in November. **Please note: the information session will only be held in Dutch.**

Information evening on 23 November - in Dutch only

An information evening will be held on Thursday 23 November 2023 between 7 PM and 8:30 PM at De Boeckel community centre, Roserije 140. We will tell you about the current situation and how the traps will be used in the future. We will also answer any questions you may have.

We hope to see you there!

Please sign up by e-mailing janneke.ackermans@maastricht.nl.
Coffee, tea, and cake will be served.

How are things going so far?

Since the sewer traps were installed, about 1,100 rats have been killed inside the sewers and almost no rats have been caught above ground. There have also been fewer reports of rat activity in the streets where the traps were placed: we received 17 reports from January to July 2022 compared with just one report in the same period in 2023. The sewer traps are just one part of tackling rat problems. The municipality has also focused on litter collection, and residents have helped by keeping homes and gardens nice and tidy. As a whole, our collective efforts and teamwork have paid off!

What are the next steps?

We will move the traps to different locations and will continue to do so over the next years. Our aim is to tackle rat problems at specific locations and see whether rotating the traps has a significant effect. In a few years' time, we should have a better idea of how many traps we need to keep Maastricht's sewers as rat-free as possible. The next part of this plan will be in De Heeg, and all traps will be moved to a new part of De Heeg in December.



What can you do to prevent a rat infestation?

- Do not leave full bin bags or any other waste outside.
- Throw food waste or leftovers in the green bin and not in the residual waste bag.
- Do not dispose of food in or near the containers at the recycling point ('milieuperron').
- Store pet food in properly sealed containers and keep this food indoors.
- If you keep chickens, rabbits, or other animals, do not overfeed them. Give them enough food to eat in one go (there should be no leftovers). Do the same if you put out food for the birds in your garden.
- Keep your garden tidy. Rats love hiding away, so clear away clutter or other items that could be used as hiding places.
- Clean up after your dog – dog poop attracts rats!

Reporting to the municipality

If you see a rat or signs of rats, please report it so that we are aware of rat activity. If you see a rat, rat droppings, holes or burrows in the ground, or damage from gnawing, [please report this online at **www.gemeentemaastricht.nl/en/report-problem**](https://www.gemeentemaastricht.nl/en/report-problem) or call 14 043.

Questions

If you have any questions about this letter, please call 14 043 and ask for Janneke Ackermans. You can also e-mail her at janneke.ackermans@maastricht.nl.

Kind regards,

Janneke Ackermans

Fauna management officer

Gemeente Maastricht (Municipality of Maastricht)

More information

About rats in Maastricht ▶ www.thuisinmaastricht.nl/en/rats

About the company that places the traps ▶ www.anticimex.nl/rat