



Lakewood mom says apartment complex refuses to address rat infestation problem

By Molly Hendrickson, Sep 24, 2017

LAKEWOOD, Colo. -- Rats are taking over Jewell Park Apartments in Lakewood and one woman said property management isn't doing enough to fix the problem.

Maryah Medina said she first noticed the Norway rats in her apartment after smelling something strange coming from the complex's basement. She complained to the management company, Wheelhouse Apartments, on September 2, but received no response.

"Every night that we laid down, that we stayed here, you would wake up with rats on you and crawling down your body," Medina said.

The problem was so bad the family began sleeping in tents so the rats couldn't get to them. She complained again to management on September 7 before moving out to stay in a hotel.

"It's been a nightmare, because of fear of what could happen to us if we stayed here," Medina said.

On September 8, Denver Pest and Wildlife Solutions treated the apartment by deploying bait stations. Poisoning the rats, however, only brought bigger problems.

"The rats have clearly started dying. You can tell only by the strong smell of death throughout the apartment right now," Medina said.

Medina said the rats destroyed nearly everything she owned, chewing through her furniture and contaminating her belongings. She has since found a new place to live but has had to leave most of her stuff behind.

"We've pretty much lost everything at this point," Medina said. "I would like to see property management compensate us for moving costs, the costs to relocate and rebuild our lives," Medina said.

In a statement to Denver7, Wheelhouse Apartments, President, Nick Costanzo, said: