



## **DAD FEARS RATS MAY BITE BABY AS TERRIFIED FAMILY PLAGUED BY RODENTS IN THE WALLS**

BY

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A worried sick dad whose Coatbridge home has been plagued by rats for six months fears the relentless rodents might eventually bite his three-month-old baby daughter or young son.

Exasperated Alistair Wardlow is “at the end of his tether” as the presence of his unwanted guests has led to his terrified two-year-old boy refusing to sleep in his own bed and his girlfriend suffering “awful anxiety issues”.

The rats can constantly be heard scratching and clawing at the walls of the property, try to come through holes they create in a cupboard and are often seen running around the back garden.

Alistair described the hell he and his family have been going through to the **Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser** : “You can hear the sound of them scratching at the walls at night and at times I’ve seen their claws coming through holes they’ve made in the cupboard, so I’ve had to seal up the holes myself to try and stop them coming through.

“My son is in at the cupboard all the time so I had to put a TV in front of it. My baby girl or son could be sitting on the floor playing with toys and a rat could come in and bite one of them.

“My son won’t sleep in his own bed as he is petrified a rat will come in; he sleeps in the other bedroom with my girlfriend and the baby and I have slept on the couch for the past six months.

“My girlfriend has suffered awful anxiety issues throughout all of this and it’s been a horrible time for all of us.”

Alistair is appealing for the council to “do more” to help tackle his rat problem, which began last summer.

He explained: “It started in the cupboard, when we heard the sound of scratching in the walls and under the floor. There are small gaps that could be big enough for them to claw through.

“I’ve also seen some rats scampering along the window ledge and running around the back garden; they have worn a path in the grass next to the shed.

“I won’t let my son, who absolutely loves the outdoors, out to play in the garden which is a real shame as no child shouldn’t be able to play in his own back garden.

“The council has been sending out a subcontractor who leaves boxes and comes back to remove them and leave new ones but there’s never any rats there and as soon as he leaves you can hear them clawing again.

“The rats are in the wall cavities so what they are doing isn’t solving the problem.

“I’ve been told that the rats won’t chew through the walls but there are so many of them that there’s every chance they will.

“I’ve had to correspond with the council a lot through email and often hear nothing back from them.

“I understand we are in the middle of a pandemic but they have phone lines and surely you should be able to actually speak to someone?

“The council don’t seem to be very interested in our plight and I really am at the end of my tether.”

A spokesperson for North Lanarkshire Council said: “Following a report of the presence of rodents at our tenant’s property, we have put in place pest control measures which we are monitoring.

“We will take whatever action is appropriate to resolve this issue.

“Work has been carried out to install additional proofing to the property. Following recent weather-related damage, further remedial work has been identified and will be completed as soon as possible.

“Rodents are attracted to food sources, both internally and externally, and we would remind tenants to take action to deny them access to food wherever possible. Further information and advice on preventing pest control problems is available on our website.”