



Rats 'immune to poison' taking over Brit estate and feasting on overflowing bins

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Rats are taking over tower blocks on an estate with the pests seemingly “immune to poison”. The infestation has affected residents for three years in Coley Park, Reading, where rats are spotted on a daily basis.

Bins are “overflowing every day” with the animals breeding rapidly, according to locals.

Resident Steven Weston told Berkshire Live : "I really think we need the rubbish taken away every day to try to solve this. "We've had the pest man out regularly, who shoots them, but it's not enough and more and more seem to come back.

"They seem to be immune to poison, which is why he has to shoot them, but there just seems to be more and more of them around."It's horrible for the children who live here. "We complain and complain and nothing ever seems to change."Back in September, Susanne McNamee said she could hear the rats in her walls and heard them breeding in her room a few years ago. The council has been trying to try to solve the problem for a number of years, but people living in the flats say the attempts aren't working.

In December, the authority spent a "Week of Action" on the estate, which included daily bin collections, daily jet washing of the bin room, daily litter picks, deep cleaning of the blocks and a daily cull by the pest controller. The bins are also collected four times a week instead of the normal three, and metal plinths will be installed at the bottom of the block to prevent rats from burrowing.

The council has repeatedly urged people living there to dispose of their rubbish properly as the rats will continue to be active if they can find food.

Another resident, Dominika Cooper, said: "When we first moved in, you never saw a rat.

"Now, you see them the entire time. The children are scared of them. "It's really sad for the people who have little kids here to have to live like this." Dominika also worries that plans for 45 new council homes could compound the issue. The council said in a statement: "Reading Borough Council has put measures in place to address this situation including baiting and culling of rats. "We recognise the issues and have asked residents to help to ensure that waste is disposed of responsibly, either by using the internal rubbish chutes or placing their waste in an

outside bin and closing the lid. As long as the rats continue to find food sources, they will continue to be active in the area."

It continued: "The council is investing over £20 million in this estate over the next 2 years which will include new homes, garages and play area but also improvements to the existing homes including modernised enclosed waste management systems which will ensure that rodents will be unable to access waste."