



# Expert Contributor

By: Lavonne Dideon, owner at Aspire-PS



## Those adorable Deer Mice – so cute but not in your HOME!

Compared to other rodents the Deer Mouse has been around for a long time in the Pacific NW. They are often cute, yet when they get into your home it is another story!! They can get into an entry point hole as small as the thickness of your baby finger.

The Deer Mouse, as with mice in general, urinate non-stop laying down a pheromone trail of urine to mark their area. Rats often defecate and urinate in one area near their nesting sites. When the mice urine crystalizes, it becomes airborne and can get into the lungs. That is the concern in getting the Hanta Virus.

Please take note if you have Deer Mice in your home, it is best to sterilize the area you find them in. Use precautions like spraying the area with Lysol disinfectant before sweeping or use a filter in your vacuum. Wear a facemask when cleaning areas like garages to help prevent the virus from getting into your lungs.

Where do these cute pests live? They live pretty much everywhere in the Greater Seattle region. They love our vegetation, weather, and environment. Places that have a lot of seeds, berries or fruit are popular during the spring and summer months. They will also live on insects during the fall and move inside your home to get warm. Kitchens are a great entry point for them with the pipes, dishwasher and fridge. As with the Roof Rat, bird feeders are a great source of food.



The Deer Mice are small in size at about 3 to 4 inches in length, excluding the tail. They have large beady eyes and large ears that give them good sight and hearing. The fur is soft and can vary in color from orangish brown to grey. They have a more distinguishable whitish underside. The tail is the give away. The tail is two-toned fur with the underside being white.

Deer Mice are nocturnal and nest in burrows dug in the ground or construction nests in raised areas such as a brush pile, logs, rocks, stumps, under bark and in hollows in trees. They also love our attics and crawlspaces, nesting in the insulation. They can also enter a crawlspace through a mole tunnel if available.

Female Deer Mice live for a year or more and can have an average of 4 litters per year. If you see one – you know you most likely have a family in your home.

At this point it is best to call in the professionals like Aspire Pest Solutions. We offer an Annual Monthly Program which will help in reduce the numbers in your home. We will help with reviewing entry points and assisting you with getting them closed off. We will also manage the moles and their tunneling while utilizing a variety of traps inside and outside the home.

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