**Problem**
I have some mutant rats coming onto my property.

**Description** *(July)*
Large rodents are damaging vegetation, trees, and even chewing on corners of structures—they eat everything! They are aggressive toward pets. I am afraid to let out my Shih Tzu or my cats. And, they hiss at you if you try to chase them away.

**Questions and Answers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How large and what color are the rodents?</td>
<td>Bigger than a large cat and brown to black.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you seen the teeth?</td>
<td>Yes. They looked like a rat’s teeth in front.</td>
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<td>Are you near a creek or river?</td>
<td>Yes. I just created a canal from a stream, so I can use the water to irrigate my garden, orchard, and lawn. That is when I started being bothered by the RATS!!</td>
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<td>What does the tail look like?</td>
<td>Round, like a rat, but with hair on it.</td>
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**Reference(s)**
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/nutria.asp

**Diagnosis**
**Nutria**: These non-native rodents burrow into the banks of waterways causing erosion that cause weakening of roadbeds, stream/river banks, dams, and dikes. Rain can wash out collapsed burrows causing further damage. Nutria eat crops and girdle fruit, nut, deciduous and coniferous trees, and ornamental shrubs. Foraging nutria can also significantly effect natural plant communities; the native muskrat has been mostly eliminated where nutria have become established.

**Recommendations**

**Cultural:**
- Locate gardens away from water sources such as streams, canals, etc.
- Low woven-wire fence, about 3 feet, with 6” buried apron to protect gardens or vegetation
- Electric wire barriers—one wire 6” off the ground will be effective
- Wire baskets around individual plants or metal shields around trees provide protection
- Live trap them along active trails. Use sweet potatoes or carrots as bait.

**Extreme care should be taken when handling captured nutria.**

**Chemical**: No chemical repellents for nutria are currently registered.

**LEGAL NOTE**: In Oregon, nutria are classified as unprotected Nongame Wildlife (OAR 635-044-0132). As unprotected wildlife nutria may be trapped or shot (cannot be relocated). No license is needed for a landowner to control nutria on his/her own property. Most cities have restrictions on leg-hold trapping or the discharge of firearms within their city limits--live trapping is usually the main population control measure inside the city limits.
Aren’t they cute???

You can Live Trap them – and kill them.
You can shoot them.
YOU CANNOT RELOCATE THEM – It is illegal to do so in Oregon!