

Brown rat

Rattus norvegicus

The Brown rat is a mammal and a rodent. They come from northwestern East-Asia. It travelled from there to Russia and South-Asia. From there they spread with ships to Europe and then to the whole world. They came to Reykjavík in 1865 and in the last part of the 19th century they had distributed all around Iceland.

They are 24-30 cm long and their tail is 18-20 cm long. Their colour can be rust-red, grey, yellowish-grey and red-grey above and light-grey below.

Brown rats are common in urban areas. They are found in basements, storage spaces, drains and in middens.

They are also found in breeding grounds and birdcliffs if there is enough food. Brown rats are no longer seen in Neskaupstaður and the surrounding towns as they were eradicated in the last decades of the 20th century.

They have 7-8 offspring on average in one litter. They can have five or more litters per year.



Námsgagnastofnun. (e.d.) Brúnrotta. Image and content from

<https://www1.mms.is/landspendyr/animal.php?id=3>