

# Feral Species Identification Guide

Under the code of practice, any feral species admitted into veterinary care must be euthanased. The following is to be used as a guide for identifying feral species that may be brought into your clinic. Seek advice from experts if you are unsure on the identification of a species in your care.

## Rodents

Many feral rodent species appear similar to our native rodent species. See below guides for feral and native species that commonly frequent the Gold Coast area. The hind footpad of rodents is a helpful identification key, especially in juveniles.

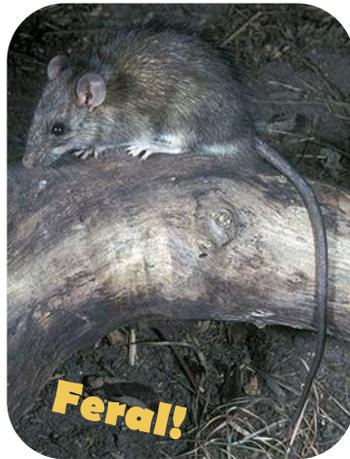
### Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*)

Head & body length 16.5-20.5cm.

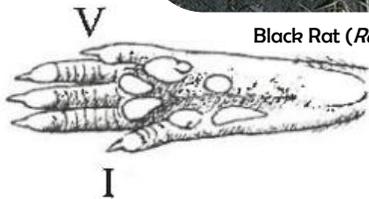
Tail longer than body (18.5-24.5cm), scaly & sparsely haired.

Fur sleek & smooth, charcoal grey to black or light brown above, cream or white below.

Rounded face with large, thin ears that when pushed forward extend past the middle of the eye.



Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*)



### House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

Head & body length 6-10cm.

Tail 7.5-9.5cm, scaled.

Fur soft & dense to 7mm long, brown-grey above, white to grey or pale yellow under.

Large bulging eyes in small head with large, rounded ears.



House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)



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### Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Head & body length 18-25.5cm.

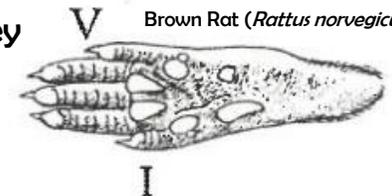
Tail shorter or just equal body length (15-21.5cm), scaly, thick, & hairless.

Fur shaggy & bristly, grey-brown above & white to grey under.

Blunt muzzle with long whiskers. Small-medium ears that when pushed forward just reach the eye.



Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

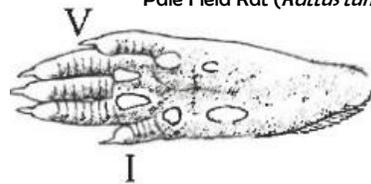


## Pale Field Rat (*Rattus Tunneyi*)

Body & head length 11.8-19.8cm.  
Tail shorter than body (7.8-19cm).  
Fur yellow-brown to brown above & grey to cream under.  
Eyes bulging.



Pale Field Rat (*Rattus tunneyi*)

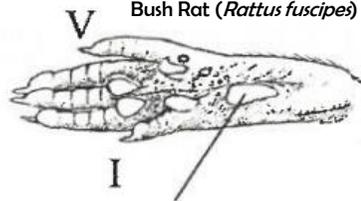


## Bush Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*)

Head & body length 11.1-21.4cm.  
Tail shorter than body (10.5-19.5cm), brown, grey or black in colour ringed with bands of scales.  
Fur dense & soft, grey-brown to reddish-brown above & light grey to light brown under.  
Ears rounded, pink, grey or brown in colour.



Bush Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*)

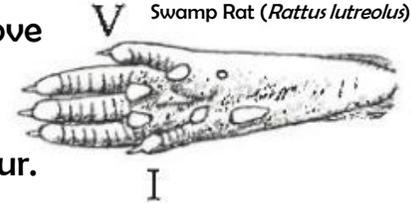


## Swamp Rat (*Rattus lutreolus*)

Head & body length 12.2-19.7cm.  
Tail approximately 2/3 length of body (5.6-14.7cm), dark grey, scaled & sparsely haired.  
Fur dark grey to grey-brown above with gold tips & yellow-cream to paler brown under.  
Ears small, almost concealed by fur.



Swamp Rat (*Rattus lutreolus*)

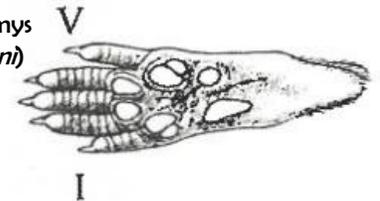


## Grassland Melomys (*Melomys burtoni*)

Body & head length 9-16cm.  
Tail longer than body (9-17.5cm) dark above & off-white under, virtually hairless with small, mosaic arranged scales.



Grassland Melomys (*Melomys burtoni*)



# Feral Species

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### Birds

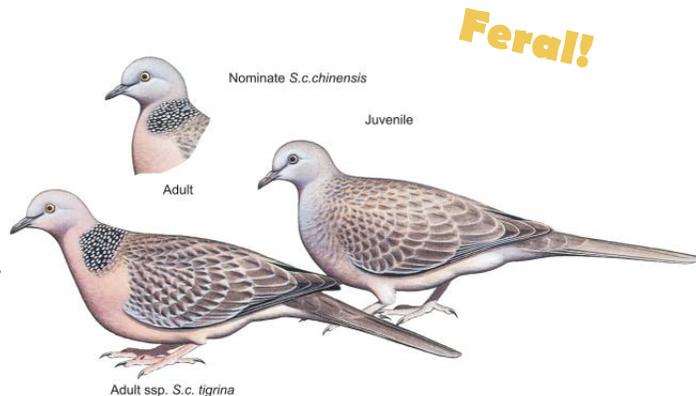
The following are feral bird species common to the Gold Coast area. The spotted turtle-dove appears similar to the native bar-shouldered dove. The common myna is often mistaken for the native noisy miner. If unsure of the identification, seek advice from an expert.

### Spotted Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

**Adults:** Pale grey head with a black patch on their hind neck with white spots. Breast feathers are pinkish grey.

#### Juveniles:

Plainer coloured head and breast. Lacking the black patch on their hind neck.



### Common Myna (*Acrisothers tristis*)

**Adults:** Brown body with glossy black head and throat. Yellow bill and neck, and bare yellow patch behind eye. Wings with distinct white patch when in flight.

#### Juveniles:

Similar characteristics to adults but with duller brown body.



### Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

**Adults:** Body blue grey with whiteish rump. Purplish green sheen on neck and breast. Grey wings with two curved black bars, and tail with black tip. Numerous colour variants occur in adults – see picture.

**Juvenile:** Lacks sheen on neck and breast. Bill pinkish or blue grey.

