



# Glis glis

## (Edible Dormouse)



### Introduction

Glis glis (Edible Dormouse) are very adaptable animals and have lived near man and his food supplies for hundreds of years. They have only recently been a problem in the UK since their reintroduction by the Rothschilds of Tring in late Victorian times.

They are the largest of the Dormouse family and as such have the honour of being a semi-protected species. They can jump up to 3 meters and squeeze through a gap of less than 2.5cm and are able to climb almost all surfaces. They will seek out any environment that provides food, water and shelter. In homes they can live in loft spaces, wall cavities and cellar/sub floor areas. They also hibernate, mainly in underground areas as they need to keep their temperature well regulated. In gardens they are attracted by fruit trees (mainly apple varieties). Glis glis breed normally once a season with 6 to 10 young and have a life span of approximately 8 years.

### Signs of Glis glis

Glis glis resemble small squirrels. They are grey in colour, with furry tails and large eyes. An adult male will reach about 8-10cm in length. They are normally only active from about June to late October. For the remaining months they will hibernate, usually underground or in roof spaces.

Although sightings are reported during daylight, Glis glis are largely nocturnal and most customers report scratching noises coming from their attic or wall cavities. They will become very intrusive, often venturing into kitchens and other rooms. They are very agile climbers and will get into kitchen cupboards where they leave their droppings. Occasionally they can be vocal, making a croaky rasping sound.

The following are signs that Glis glis may be present:

- Droppings — which are cylinder shaped and around 1cm in length
- Damage — Glis glis have to gnaw constantly and as a result may cause damage to belongings, structures, pipes and electric cables
- Noises — may be heard from under floors, behind walls or in the loft especially in warm areas i.e. boiler immersion tank areas.
- Holes — may be seen (3-7cm diameter)



## How to prevent Glis glis

There are many things you can do to avoid having a problem with Glis glis:

### Exclusion

You can exclude Glis glis from your home by repairing external structural faults such as:

- Gaps - draught excluding brush or bristle strips can be attached to the door or the threshold can be renewed or raised
- Holes surrounding pipes - these can be blocked with wire wool and then filled with cement or expanding foam. Also check soffits and barge boards.
- Trees and foliage - cut back tree branches so they do not overhang your property. Wall climbing plants should be trimmed and not allowed to reach from ground to roof level
- Air vents - damaged or old style vents with holes over 2.5cm can be replaced or covered with fine mesh (*DO NOT BLOCK AIR VENTS*)

### Environment

You can make your home and garden environment less attractive to Glis glis by using the following tips:

- Poor housekeeping - can increase the attraction of Glis glis to your property, keep ivy and other foliage from growing over the roof
- Food storage - keep fruits inside and off the ground and keep opened packages in sealed containers
- Outdoor pets - prevent your pets creating a food source for Glis glis by attaching a board to the front of their cage to catch discarded fresh fruit / nuts

### Control

If you find that you have Glis glis in your home contact the Environmental Health Department on 01442 228543/ 228455, or email [pestcontrol@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:pestcontrol@dacorum.gov.uk)