

RAT FAQs



Q: *Aren't rats dirty?*

A: Nope. Rats spend as much time grooming as cats. They can be litter box trained like cats too!

Q: *Are rats friendly?*

A: Absolutely! They love sitting on shoulders and snuggling up in hoodies. They like to snuggle and play just like dogs and cats.

Q: *Do they bite?*

A: While there are exceptions, rats are usually non-aggressive. You are more likely to be bitten by a dog than a rat.

Q: *Are they smart?*

A: Yup. Rats are amazingly smart. They will learn to know their names and to come when called. You can teach them all sorts of tricks as well.

Q: *How long do they live?*

A: The average lifespan is 2-3 years but with good care they can live for 4 years or more.

Q: *What makes them different than sewer rats?*

A: Pretty much everything. Pet rats are about as close to sewer rats as dogs are to wolves. Pet rats are domesticated, clean, and friendly.



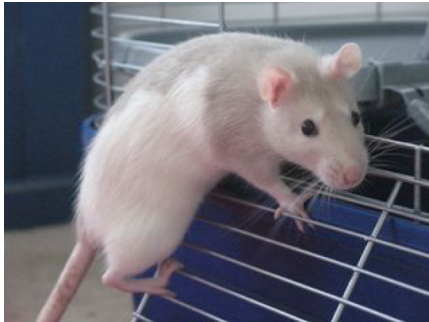
Pet Rats

MEET YOUR NEW BEST FRIENDS



CARE INFO AND FAQ

RAT CARE



SUPPLIES

-Cage: The cage should be large enough to have 1.5 cubic feet per rat. Rats also like having multiple levels to climb on.

-Water bottle and food dish

-Bedding: Paper bedding such as Carefresh, Aspen shavings, or fleece make good bedding. Pine and cedar are not recommended.

-Food: Rat block food such as Oxbow. Seed mixes are not recommended.

-Accessories: These don't have to be anything fancy or expensive. Store bought items are nice but rats also love playing with cardboard tubes and sleeping in tissue boxes!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Rats are very social creatures. ***They should always be kept in pairs or more.*** As well as cage-mates to play with, they need human interaction as well. Rats should get at least 30 minutes with you out of the cage each day.

Maintenance:

The cage should be cleaned on a weekly basis. Bedding and any cardboard boxes should be replaced. Permanent fixtures and accessories should be washed. There should always be food and water available.



Meet Mia, My sweet rescue rat!

Trust Training:

When you first bring your new friends home, they will probably be a bit scared.

You will have to build trust with them. For a few days put your hand in the cage for them to sniff and try offering treats. When they let you, pet them while still inside the cage. Once they start seeming comfortable with you petting them, you can try to pick them up. *Never pick up a rat by the tail.* Each day hold them for a little while, increasing time as they begin to trust you. You'll have a sweet shoulder rat in no time!

*For more information on rats,
Visit the following websites:*

ratfanclub.org

ratguide.com

dapper.com.au