

# rat care sheet



Always wash your hands after handling your rat or its housing to help maintain sanitary conditions.



## habitat

Appropriate cage size. Rats need plenty of room to play. They like to climb so a tall cage is ideal. The cage should be escape proof. A glass, plastic or metal cage is recommended. Shavings such as aspen, pelleted bedding or recycled paper is recommended. Cedar and pine are not recommended. Provide 1 to 2 inches of bedding and change regularly to provide a clean and healthy environment. A hiding place is also recommended.



## temperature

Avoid extreme temperatures. Rats acclimate well to normal household temperatures. Do not put your mouse in direct sunlight or a drafty area.



## diet

Rat food. Small amounts of chopped vegetables and fruits such as sweet potatoes, bananas, grapes, broccoli and kale. Vegetables and fruits not eaten within 24 hours should be discarded. Treats in moderate amounts.



## water

Provide fresh, clean, chlorine-free water daily.

## shopping list

- appropriate sized cage
- appropriate litter (no cedar or pine)
- rat food
- food bowl
- water bottle
- treats
- wood chews
- exercise toys
- hiding place
- bedding fluff
- vitamins
- book about rats

## fun facts

### average size

8 inches long

### average life span

up to 5 years

### misc. information

rats make very nice pets especially if handled when young  
toys encourage rats to be more active & inquisitive  
males and females should be housed separately  
they are nocturnal and tend to sleep during the day

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