

CRITTERS:

Rats



Rats often get a bad rap. But once you take a look at that adorable face, what's not to love? Rats can provide many hours of entertainment. They are curious, intelligent and sophisticated in their own ways. And you can't have just one! Rats play, groom each other, and cuddle up to sleep together. A single same-sex pair will be happy, but rats will also be content in single-sex groups of three to five.

DIET

The generic "rodent mixes" containing grains and seeds do not provide all of the nutrition rats need. Often rats will only eat their favorite pieces. Rat blocks are a complete diet. Rats can also eat just about any fresh fruit or vegetable you would eat as a treat, with a few exceptions. As with any treats, do so in moderation and with caution.

HABITAT

A wire cage with a solid floor can make a great home for your new friend. Be sure your cage has closely spaced bars. Rats are sensitive to extreme temperatures. They are prone to overheating and becoming too cold, so the room temperature should be 65 – 75 degrees. Place your rat's cage away from windows and vents or areas prone to drafts.

HEALTH CARE

Rats have large incisors that will continue to grow throughout their life. It is important to provide your rat with different chewing surfaces to prevent their teeth from overgrowing. Rat teeth are a yellow to orange color. This color will get darker as they grow. This is completely normal and healthy.

OUT OF CAGE TIME/TIME WITH HUMANS

Rats are highly social creatures and quite enjoy the company of humans. It is important you spend time daily with your rat – at least an hour or more. If you choose to have single rat, you will need to devote more time to your pet to prevent him from getting lonely and depressed.

LIFE SPAN

1 - 3 years

CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON FOR TOTAL CARE; ADULTS MUST MONITOR

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