



# RAT care sheet



**PET DEPOT**

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

## CAGING NEEDED

- Appropriate cage size. Rats need plenty of room to play. Rats 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 or recycled paper is recommended. Cedar and pine are not recommended. Provide 1-2 inches of bedding and change regularly to provide a clean and healthy environment.
- A hiding place is also recommended.

## ENVIRONMENT

Avoid extreme temperatures. Rats acclimate well to normal household temperatures. Do not put your rat 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 NEEDS

Provide fresh, clean, chlorine-free water daily.

## MISC. INFORMATION

- Rats make very nice pets especially if handled frequently when young.
- Toys encourage rats to be more active and inquisitive.
- Rats are nocturnal and tend to sleep during the day.
- Males and females should be housed separately.
- Chew sticks should be available. This helps to trim the incisor teeth.

## AVERAGE SIZE

8 inches long.

## LIFE SPAN

Up to 5 years.

## SHOPPING LIST FOR NEEDED SUPPLIES

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rat Food     | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate sized cage                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Bowl    | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Litter (No Cedar or Pine) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Chews   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiding Place & Bedding Fluff          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Toys                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Chews & Treats                   |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about Rats                       |