

# Rat care at a glance

## Accommodation

**Minimum size:** 120cm x 90cm x 60cm.

**Ideal location:** Dark, quiet room – sensitive to noise and light.  
Indoor only

**Bar spacing:** 2cm or less

**Substrate depth:** Shallow, but with a deep digging box provided.

**Suitable substrate types:** Hemp, paper pellets, wood pulp, shredded paper, shredded card, coco soil, hay.

Mixing substrates helps maintain burrow structures in dig boxes.

## Nocturnal – mostly active during the night

### Reproduction

**Gestation period:** 21-23 days.

**Age of sexual maturity:** 6-8 weeks old.

**Age to split from opposite sex litter mates:** 4-5 weeks.

**Neuter:** Single males if introducing to females.

**Can be neutered from:** 3 weeks and ideally before 4 months.

**How long to wait post neuter before introductions**  
6 weeks.

## Natural behaviours

Digging, burrowing, nesting, running, foraging, gnawing, climbing and swimming.

Average  
life span  
**2 years**



## Cleaning

**Spot clean daily:** remove uneaten food and soiled bedding, wipe shelves, wheels or enrichment that has been soiled. Change the water.

**Full clean:** Every 1-3 weeks depending on group size/ substrate type. Replace some used bedding in to a freshly cleaned cage.

**Vaccinations required:** No

**Microchipping required:** No

## Companionship

- **Ideal pairs or groupings:**  
Groups of 3 or more
- Neutered male with females
- All female group
- All male group

## Diet

**Omnivore** – eats plant and animal products.

**Main feed:** 1 tbsp high quality commercial mixed rat food per rat per day.

**Additional food:** See rat feeding chart.

## Enrichment

**Provide:** Wheel, climbing frames, hanging items, ropes, tunnels, pipes, nesting material, platforms, hides, branches, digging box. Prefer a cluttered environment.

**Shallow water** – must be supervised at all times.

**Minimum wheel size:** 30cm.

**Rats can be rehomed from 6 weeks old**

## Top tip

Rats are extremely light sensitive so should be kept in dimly lit areas.

## Harmful food

Blue cheese, dried beans and corn, green potato, avocado, rhubarb, poppy seeds.