



Fun fact ↪ Rats have incredible senses and use their whiskers to help them navigate in the dark.

Rats at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner**

Average lifespan: **2–3 years with proper care**

Average adult size: **14-18 inches (including tail)**

Diet: **Omnivorous**

Minimum habitat size: **20" L x 14" W x 24" H**

Enclosure Setup and Maintenance

- Pets should have large, multilevel wire cages with enough space for each rat. Size up if you have multiple.
- Rats thrive in groups, and should be kept in groups of two or more.
- Add enrichment toys and décor so your rats can stay active in their cage.
- Rats don't do well with drastic temperature changes, so keep cages away from the air conditioner and out of direct sunlight.
- Spot clean cages daily and thoroughly clean at least once a week.



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Supply Checklist

- A large, wired enclosure
- Paper bedding
- Décor and accessories
- Exercise wheels and enrichment toys
- High-quality pelleted rat food
- Food and water dishes
- Water bottle
- Chew toys
- Cage cleaner
- Small pet carrier

Handling

Once your rat is used to their environment, you can start handling and petting your rat, as long as they show an interest. Let your rat come to you first and scoop them up by their hindquarters so they get enough support.

Handling your pet encourages bonding and strengthens your connection with them.

Fun fact ↪ When rats grind their teeth, it's known as "bruxing."

Diet

Rats eat a heavy diet of rat pellets. Around 90% of your rat's meals should be rat pellets, with the other 10% being vegetables.

Feed your rat twice a day based on the pellet food instructions. How much you feed your rat depends on their age and size. Older rats tend to eat less than baby and adult rats.

Health

Rats should have clean eyes, ears, and a nose free of discharge. Make sure their weight is proportionate to their body size and that they have regular bowel movements. Contact a vet if you notice a drop in their energy levels, rapid weight loss, or if your rat is chewing on their hair.

Fun fact

↪ Rats are very smart and can learn tricks and how to use litter boxes.

