



## Wet Pets N Critters

### Pet Rat Care Guide

Rats are intelligent, social, and affectionate pets that thrive on interaction and proper care. With a good diet and environment, pet rats typically live **2–3 years**.

---

### Housing

- **Cage Size:**
  - Minimum: **24x12x18 inches** for a pair of rats. Bigger is always better!
  - Multi-level cages with **solid floors** are ideal for exercise and enrichment.
- **Bedding:**
  - Use **paper-based bedding** or **aspen shavings** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
  - Avoid cedar or pine shavings, as these can cause respiratory issues.
- **Cage Setup:**
  - Include **multiple hides**, **hammocks**, and **tunnels**.
  - Add **climbing toys** and **chew toys** for enrichment.

### Social Needs

Rats are **highly social** and should never be kept alone. Plan to adopt at least **two rats** for companionship.

### Diet

- **Staple Diet:**
  - Feed a **high-quality rat pellet or lab block** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- **Fresh Foods (in moderation):**
  - Offer small portions of fresh vegetables (broccoli, carrots, spinach) and fruits (apple, banana, berries).
- **Treats (occasionally):**
  - Small animal-safe treats like yogurt drops or whole grains.
- Provide **fresh water daily** in a water bottle or heavy dish.

Avoid:

- Sugary, salty, or processed human foods.
- Citrus fruits for male rats.

### Chewing

Rats' teeth grow continuously! Provide **chew toys**, untreated wood blocks, or cardboard tubes to prevent overgrowth.

## Exercise & Enrichment

Rats are active and curious! They need:

- **Daily out-of-cage playtime** in a safe, supervised area.
- **Tunnels, ramps, and wheels** (solid surface only—no wire wheels).
- **Foraging toys and puzzle feeders** for mental stimulation.

## Cleaning & Maintenance

- Spot-clean daily to remove waste and uneaten food.
- Change bedding at least **once a week**.
- Clean cage, hides, and accessories with a **small animal-safe cleaner** (available at Wet Pets N Critters).
- Clean food and water dishes daily.

## Handling & Taming

- Handle rats **gently and regularly** to build trust.
- Let them sniff and explore your hands before picking them up.
- Always support their body and never grab by the tail.

## Health Tips

Signs of a healthy rat:

- Bright, clear eyes
- Smooth, clean fur
- Active, curious behavior
- Normal eating and droppings

Signs of illness:

- Sneezing, wheezing, or labored breathing
- Hair loss or scabs
- Weight loss or lethargy

Contact a small animal-savvy veterinarian if you notice any health concerns.

## Supplies Checklist (Available at Wet Pets N Critters)

- Large multi-level cage
- Paper-based bedding or aspen shavings
- Rat pellets or lab blocks
- Water bottle or bowl
- Food dishes
- Hides, hammocks, tunnels
- Chew toys
- Exercise wheel (solid surface)

- Small animal-safe cleaner
- Foraging toys and enrichment