

Rat Care Sheet

1. Housing:

Provide a spacious cage with multiple levels for climbing and exploring.

Choose a cage with narrow bar spacing to prevent escape.

Ensure the cage has solid flooring to avoid foot injuries.

Provide hiding spots and cozy bedding material for nesting.

2. Bedding:

Choose a suitable bedding material, such as aspen shavings or paper-based bedding.

Avoid cedar or pine bedding, as they can be harmful to rats.

3. Diet:

Offer a balanced diet consisting of commercial rat pellets or lab blocks.

Supplement with fresh vegetables, fruits, and occasional small amounts of cooked lean protein.

Avoid sugary and fatty foods.

Provide clean, fresh water at all times using a sipper bottle or a shallow dish.

4. Exercise and Enrichment:

Allow daily supervised playtime outside the cage in a safe and secure area.

Provide a large exercise wheel suitable for rats.

Offer a variety of toys, tunnels, ropes, and hammocks for mental stimulation.

Rotate toys regularly to prevent boredom.

5. Handling and Socialization:

Handle your rats gently and frequently to build trust and bond.

Offer treats and rewards during handling sessions.
Provide daily social interaction and playtime.
Avoid rough handling or squeezing, as rats have delicate bodies.

6. Hygiene and Health:

Regularly clean the cage and remove soiled bedding.
Perform spot cleaning daily and deep cleaning once a week.

Monitor your rats' health and behavior for any signs of illness.

Trim their nails regularly if needed.

Schedule regular veterinary check-ups for preventive care.

7. Temperature and Environment:

Maintain a comfortable temperature range for your rats (around 65-75°F or 18-24°C).

Keep the cage away from direct sunlight, drafts, and extreme temperature fluctuations.

Provide hiding spots and a cozy sleeping area.

8. Rat Companionship:

Rats are social animals and thrive in the company of other rats.

Consider adopting at least two rats to provide companionship for each other.

Introduce new rats gradually, following proper introduction techniques.

Remember, rats are intelligent and social animals that require mental stimulation, social interaction, and a clean and enriching environment. This care sheet serves as a general guideline, but it's important to research and understand the needs of your specific rat breed. Consulting with a veterinarian or experienced rat owners can provide further guidance for the care and well-being of your pet rats.