

# Rat

## FACTSHEET

All animals need the following five things to be happy and healthy: a comfortable home, suitable diet, companionship, normal behaviour and vet care.

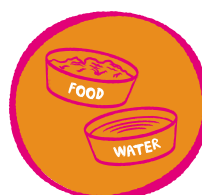
Find out how you can care for rats by using the information below.



### HOME

Animals need a comfortable home with enough space to exercise.

Rats love nothing more than exploring and learning about their home so it is important that they have a large home with space for them to run around and for all their toys. An ideal size for two or three rats is at least 80cm high by 50cm wide by 80cm deep.



### DIET

Animals need a healthy diet and access to fresh water at all times.



It's important to feed your rats a healthy and balanced diet twice a day to help keep them happy and healthy.

**Why not try making your own rat food?**  
Find our recipe on page two.



### COMPANIONSHIP

Some animals need friends of their own kind, some would rather live by themselves.

Rats need company to be happy and so need to live with at least one other rat or as part of a small group. They enjoy playing games together and during quiet times will often all snuggle up together.



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**HANDS ON**  
Teaching responsible  
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## NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

Animals need exciting things to do and space to behave normally.

Rats are scavengers and love to forage for their food so hide it each day in different places around their home and in their toys. Rats are



inquisitive and playful pets so try giving them some different toys each time you clean them out to mix it up and keep their home exciting. Try some of the following favourites:

- ♥ **Pipes and tunnels** for running through
- ♥ **Ropes or plaited fabric** to climb up or balance along
- ♥ **Climbing frames** made from old metal CD towers
- ♥ **Old socks and jumpers** that your rats can use as beds
- ♥ **Hammocks** are a must-have – they love sleeping in them and they help your rats to feel relaxed with you and their rat friends.



## VET CARE

Animals need to be kept healthy and see the vet if they are sick or injured.

Rats can suffer from breathing difficulties if their homes are not kept nice and clean so remember to use shredded paper instead of sawdust on the floor and to wash their hammocks and the bars of their cages when you clean them out.



## WHY NOT MAKE?

A homemade rat food recipe

**Mix together:** 6 scoops of rabbit/rat muesli, ½ scoop dog biscuits, a handful of healthy seeds, nuts, dried fruit or dried noodles, 3 scoops of healthy, low sugar breakfast cereal like cornflakes or Weetabix and half a scoop of uncooked wholemeal pasta.

Visit: [woodgreen.org.uk](http://woodgreen.org.uk)

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