

Animal Care Handouts: Rats

The following topics in this animal care guide are as follows:

- Rat Handling & Care
- Rat Feeding
- Rat Housing
- Rat Enrichment
- Rat Body Language
- Litter & Bedding: [SP-020-Recommended Small Mammal Litter and Bedding](#)

How to Hold a Rat



You don't want to pick them up or hold them by the tail! That will hurt them.

Recommended Rat Food

Veggies

Carrots
Cauliflower
Celery
Choy
Corn
Cucumber
Broccoli
Butternut Squash
Green Beans
Kale
Mushrooms
Peas
Peppers
Potatoes (cooked)

Fruits

Apple
Apricots
Banana
Blackberries
Blueberries
Cantaloupe
Cherries
Cranberries
Grapes
Kiwi
Melon
Peaches
Pears
Plums
Pumpkin
Raspberries
Strawberries

Other Foods

Cereal
Cheese
Chicken
Cottage Cheese
Cooked Egg
Mealworms
Ham
Oats
Pasta
Plain Popcorn
Rice
Sunflower Seeds
Turkey
Walnuts



Garbutt, Anna. "A List Of Safe And Dangerous Food For Rats." *The House of Animals*, 10 May 2017,
www.thehouseofanimals.com/2017/05/12/a-list-of-safe-and-dangerous-food-for-rats/.

Unsafe Food For Rats

VEGGIES

Dried Corn
Green Potato Skin & Eyes
Raw Artichokes
Raw Brussel Spouts (Can be fed if cooked)
Raw Red Cabbage (Can be fed if cooked)
Raw Sweet Potato (Can be fed if cooked)
Raw Onion
Rhubarb

FRUITS

Apple Seeds
Avocado Skin
Green Banana
Mango
Oranges

OTHER HARMFUL FOODS

Blue Cheese
Carbonated Drinks
Cuttlefish
Liquorice
Peanut Butter (okay in very small amounts)
Poppy Seeds
Rawhides



Garbutt, Anna. "A List Of Safe And Dangerous Food For Rats." *The House of Animals*, 10 May 2017, www.thehouseofanimals.com/2017/05/12/a-list-of-safe-and-dangerous-food-for-rats/.

Recommended Rat Cages



Rats are highly intelligent animals and will need lots of different kinds of enrichment throughout their cage.



Rats do better in groups of 2's, 4's, and 6's.



Good wheels to use for rats!

Enrichment Ideas For Rats



Toilet paper rolls with treats



Some bird toys can be used for rats!



A BRIEF GUIDE TO RAT BODY LANGUAGE

EETM

Standing on toes,
fur puffed out



Aggressive



Pulls back,
ears narrow



Cautious

Seems legless



Pancake



Relaxed



In pain



Sick

Stretching forward,
turning ears and
whiskers to
object of
interest



Curious



Ear folds back

Scared



Narrowed ears
and eyes

In pain

Cheeks flattened,
nose elongated,
whiskers bunched

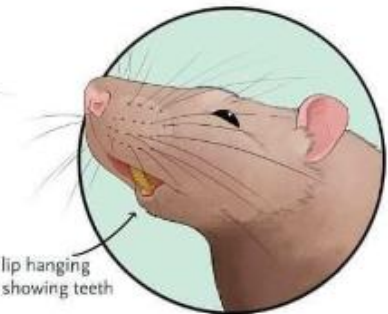


Neutral

Distance between ears
widens, ears bright pink



Happy



Lower lip hanging
down, showing teeth

Sleepy