

COMMON MEDICAL CONDITIONS

*** Recent Health Alert - See insert
on Seoul virus*

1.) Pneumonia: Rats are especially prone to pneumonia. Specifically a bacterial pneumonia caused by a species of mycoplasma. Symptoms include heavy breathing and sneezing.

2.) Mammary masses: Rats, especially intact females, are prone to the development of benign mammary masses. They can become quite large and cumbersome and should be surgically removed.

3.) Mites: These microscopic ectoparasites can be quite itchy for your pet rat. They do not infest humans.



PROPER HOUSING



Rats need room to run and climb and should not be housed in a small enclosure. Multi-level cages are best. Stay away from any aromatic beddings especially cedar and pine wood chips. The best bedding is recycled newspaper. Include toys for your pet rats, they are very intelligent and need stimulation. Paper towel rolls are often a favorite. Also, include as many soft hammocks and pouches as possible. Rats love to snuggle!

For a complete list of works cited; ask a representative
of Elmhurst Animal Care Center *

THE DOMESTIC RAT



A beginner's guide to caring for
these sweet, intelligent and often
misunderstood pets.

~Marina Jaworsky, DVM

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CUISINE 101 FOR YOUR RAT

The domesticated or fancy rat, is a type of brown rat that has been specifically bred since the 18th century. There are many types of fancy rats with coat and color variations including white, agouti, cinnamon and blue. The fancy rat is dramatically different from its wild counterpart both in body and mind. Contrary to popular belief, the domesticated rat does not pose significant health threats to humans or other pets and is quite docile, clean and intelligent.



SOCIALIZATION & TRAINING

Rats are very social animals and often do best in pairs or trios. Also, make sure to handle and play with your pet rat daily to properly socialize them and develop a lasting bond. They are highly intelligent animals and are very easy to train. There are lots of wonderful books on how to train your pet rat. It's a lot easier than it sounds!



RAT PELLETS:

Oxbow Essentials makes a wonderful heart-shaped rat pellet. The pellet formula contains a complete and balanced diet for your pet rat and is essential to their health. Try to stay away from the diets filled with seeds and cereals. The more plain the rat pellets or "rodent blocks", the better!



FRUITS AND VEGGIES:

Rats love fresh fruits and vegetables and should be offered some everyday. However, make sure to avoid anything with a rind and do not allow them to have apple seeds as they are toxic. For a good list of acceptable and unacceptable fruits and vegetables please visit:

<https://pethelpful.com/rodents/Rat-Nutritional-Information-Can-my-Pet-Rat-Eat-This>



TREATS:

Rats will love the occasional treat, just try not to give them too many! Small pieces of cheese, hard-boiled eggs, and yogurt chips are some good treats to offer your pet rat on a daily to weekly basis. They are also wonderful items to use in training.

