



Dedicated to finding loving, forever homes for any pet rat in need

May/June 2022 Issue

Wish List

Please consider donating the following:

- Gift Cards to: Sprouts, Natural Grocers, Whole Foods, Traders Joes, Joann's Fabrics
- .03 and/or .05 syringes with removable needles
- New or gently used flannel or fleece fabric
- Pipe Cleaners
- Hammocks

Donation drop-off locations:

North: 101 & 7th St., call Keli 602-989-1894

South: I10 & Chandler Blvd. OR 202 & 40th St., call Cynthia 480-598-8540

Enjoying the newsletter?

Let us know: anyratnews@gmail.com
Tell us what you like or what you would like to see. Send us YOUR photos and stories. We want to hear from our foster homes, adopters and rat enthusiasts!

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Photo Courtesy Brandi Saxton – It's a Rat's World

Did April showers bring all these flowers?

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the American Fancy Rat and Mouse Association, there are seven types of fancy rats based on coat, ear, and tail types:

- Standard (short, glossy coat)
- Rex (curly hair and curly whiskers)
- Satin (thin, long hair)
- Bristle (stiff, coarse coat)
- Tailless (born without a tail, similar to Manx cats)
- Hairless (born without coat)
- Dumbo (ears on side rather than top of head)

The Dumbo rat is the most popular variety today thanks to its namesake feature in the 2019 Disney movie.

ARR OPEN HOUSE

In celebration of World Rat Day, ARR held an open house on April 2nd. Dozens of rat lovers came to peruse the rat related merchandise that was sold for donations or given away for free! After collecting their rat treasures, attendees enjoyed refreshments and visiting with other rat enthusiasts.

ASU MEETS ARR

In addition to providing an outing and sale for the ARR family, the open house provided an opportunity for a group of ASU students to come and learn about rats. ASU offers a 300-level class in "Animal Ethics and Sustainability." This course focuses on the long history animals have as sources of food, labor, sport, and companionship. It includes many viewpoints and topics.

The group of students came to learn about how rats became domesticated as companion pets. ARR Assistant Director Margaret Benson gave a lecture on the history of the rat and how they became domesticated in England and France in the 1800s. She traced that history to the fancy rats of today.



Margaret Benson lectures on the history of the rat.



Director Jenna Lillibridge introduces rats to students and speaks on rat behavior.

After enjoying some refreshments, the students sat for a meet-and-greet with some of ARR's foster rats. ARR Director Jenna Lillibridge gave a talk on pet rat behavior, body language, and health. The students seem to enjoy their visit with the rats and left with a new understanding of rats as companion animals.



Shop at more than 2,100 locations including Macy's, JCPenney, Kohls, CVS, Walgreens, Safeway, Hobby Lobby, Michaels, and thousands more.

You shop - they donate!

Please go to [iGive.com](https://www.igive.com) and select ARR as your charity. We appreciate your support.



Volunteer Spotlight

In our first issue, we introduced founding ARR member Janet Cooper. This Volunteer Spotlight introduces the other founding member still with ARR, Keli Quinn. Keli lives in Phoenix where she is a Project Manager, Editor, and Quality Control officer of technical publications and maintenance manuals for aircrafts.

Her interest in rats began in 2002. Their dog had passed away and her ex-husband didn't want another dog ("and definitely not a cat") due to his allergies. So, Keli started researching small animals, hoping there would be one that wouldn't irritate his allergies. She kept coming back to rats as the small pet most like dogs. She was a little skeptical so she started with the smallest rat she could find; "a starter rat if you will." Keli was hooked!

She found a rat forum on the Internet and met up with a few other local rat lovers. She was surprised to find so many other people who loved rats. This group of rat lovers eventually formed ARR and Keli was happy to participate since she felt rats needed advocates. As ARR organized in 2004, Keli served as an original board member. As a board member, she served many functions, including designing



Keli Quinn

graphics and literature, organizing public events, creating adoption certificates with photos and stories of the rats, and opening her home to fosters.

Today Keli serves as ARR's Adoption Events Coordinator and the Social Media Manager. Her home has been open to fosters all these years. When asked which of her ARR volunteer jobs she enjoyed the most, Keli said "fostering babies and doing adoption events (but not getting up at 6:30 am to go get set up)." Adoption events were made easier by "Earl the Pearl, amazing rat ambassador." He would sit in his bed at all the adoption events as an official ARR greeter!

Since Keli has had rats for all these years, it was hard for her to select a few special ones to tell us about. But she did say she prefers males to females; although she has definitely had some memorable females! And she loves babies since "they are just so darn entertaining!". Here are just a few of Keli's "Memorables":



"Earl the Pearl, Rat Ambassador"



"Jax in a hammock"



"Kissy, kissing a fairy"

Keli has a dedicated rat room in her house which has housed countless fosters. She has a full house with rats, a dog, two cats and mice. She works as hard as ever for ARR, organizing and hosting adoption events, fostering ratties, and posting ARR news on social media. Thanks for your years of service Keli!

- C.L.



"Remy does a balancing act"

Mean Rat Tony?

Keli did say she often fostered rats considered unadoptable. One such rat was "Mean Rat Tony."

"The meanest rat was Tony (formerly El Diablo) who lived in the master bathroom downstairs. I couldn't even trust him on the second floor with the other rats. He is the only rat we ever considered euthanizing because of his aggression. Even a vet visit couldn't be accomplished without sedation.

" Besides neutering, we tried everything from psychoactive drugs for birds to various homeopathic remedies. I had to block him in one half of the cage to clean the other half. He had extreme overreactions to any rat or human who came near.

" But in his own way, he seemed happy and his cage in the tub was always open; he never hopped down to the floor. I would talk to him a lot since he was in my bathroom, and I noticed him bruxing at times and seeming to listen.

"The only other thing he bruxed for was country music (I would play different genres). I was unable to hold him other than the day I knew he was dying. But even Tony deserved a few tears, and I did miss his company."

- Keli Quinn



How Cute is That??



Big brother Alfred (who is neutered) cuddles new arrival Penelope, adopted by Lucas Boyle and Gabrielle Adam. Photo courtesy of Lucas Boyle.

Rat Tip

Rats should never be housed on cedar or pine shavings. Studies have shown that exposure to phenols in wood shavings (the chemicals that make them smell good) can cause respiratory difficulty, as well as liver and kidney damage.

Offer your rats a washable, plastic litter box with paper litter. ARR recommends Kaytee Soft Granule Blend (available through pet stores or Chewy) or similar unscented, recycled paper litter. Some rats may prefer crushed walnut shell litter (any brand) which is found in the bird section of pet stores.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Any Rat Rescue is a network of volunteers.
We need volunteers like YOU!

FOSTER OR QUARANTINE HOMES

We supply equipment and medical care.

Application at:

https://anyratrescue.org/files/foster_app.pdf

TRANSPORTERS

Transporters needed who can move rats, medicine, and/or equipment around the metro area. Flexibility is helpful as needs are sporadic. Please call Margaret at 480-734-0802

ADOPTION BAG ASSEMBLER

Assemble ARR adoption materials and place in adoption bags. Call Margaret at 480-734-0802



Photo Courtesy Brandi Saxton – It's a Rat's World

Which way to the pool?

Jupiter's Final Orbit & Our New Space Quests

The first newsletter issue featured Jupiter, our little "Traveling Rat." She was with us in our summer RV travels, as well as the rest of the year, ever present for meals, after-school company, homework help, and quiet family time. Jupiter touched so many people in her life.

Unfortunately, shortly after the first newsletter was released, she started developing some small growths underneath her arms. She was seen at the AZ Exotic Animal Hospital in Mesa, where the doctors and vet techs all commented that Jupiter was the first rat they had seen to have dealt so well with all of the "handling," and was even bruxing, during the "little needle poke" needed for a biopsy!

Within a week after the initial exam, Jupiter's health declined rather rapidly. Subsequent follow-up and lab results appointments resulted in Jupiter being treated with fluids and prescribed a regimen of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. What was initially thought to be "benign mammary gland tumors" were later confirmed to be cancer cells.

Despite the grim diagnosis, Jupiter kept fighting, and we kept trying. Medications were given every 8-12 hours for almost two weeks. Sadly, it was just too much for her little body to take, and after surrounding her with cuddles and attention, she passed peacefully in our arms.

Jupiter not only had a lasting impact on our family, but on Jamie's friends as well. Jamie mentioned her passing to two of her friends when she arrived at school Monday morning. By that afternoon, not only did her whole school know about it, the staff and students even passed around condolence cards for everyone to sign!



In addition, she will now be remembered as a "Calendar Rat" - the only non-cat to be featured in an employer's annual Cat Calendar! Initially submitted as a joke, her photo was selected to be on April 1, 2022 – April Fool's Day!



With shorter lifespans than average dogs, cats, and other pets, we enjoyed every moment of Jupiter's time with us. Rest in peace little Jupes – you will be missed! "Every Pet has its own character, its own personality, and its own place in our hearts. May your heart know that your pet is at peace" – *Veterinary Wisdom – World by the Tail, Inc.*

Two months after Jupiter's passing, we finally felt ready to adopt again, and have now brought Lunar and Eclipse into our home and loving arms. We look forward to a whole new set of adventures with these girls! - T.S. / J.S.



Send us your RATTIE stories/photos!
anyratnews@gmail.com