

# Cages

## Specs

- Two levels (healthy rats like to climb)
- Bar spacing: 1/2" or less preferred for feet and to avoid escape
- Avoid cage calculators that tend to under-estimate space needed

*Absolutely NO aquariums, guinea pig or rabbit cages, plastic exercise balls or cat litter.*

## Cage examples

- Exotic Nutrition Single Level
- MidWest Homes Critter Nation (single and double level)
- Frisco 2-Story Small Animal Cage
- Ware Chew Proof 3 Level
- Petco You & Me Rat Manor

## Accessories\*

- Water bottle (glass or plastic)
- Two food bowls (dry/wet food)
- Hideout (plastic igloo, bin or cardboard box)
- Hammock
- Washable fabric floor liner
- Litter box (crushed walnut or small-grain no-fragrance recycled paper litter)



## ARR cage page (detailed):

[https://anyratrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ARR\\_CagePage2\\_Dec2023.pdf](https://anyratrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ARR_CagePage2_Dec2023.pdf) (or use QR code)



## ARR accessories and bundles:

[https://anyratrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ARR\\_SupplyBundles.pdf](https://anyratrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ARR_SupplyBundles.pdf)

\* All available through ARR by donation

## Additional info

### Other resources

- Rat & Mouse Club of America (article database and more) <https://www.rmca.org/>
- Rathelp (links): <http://www.ratsrule.com/links.html#info>
- The Rat Fan Club: <http://www.ratfanclub.org>



## Support Any Rat Rescue

Paypal: [info@anyratrescue.org](mailto:info@anyratrescue.org)  
Venmo: @AnyRatRescue



# Welcome to the wonderful world of pet rats

Any Rat Rescue has created this pamphlet to assist you in providing the very best care for your new pet rats. This is just a start, but a good one. Information is presented as a guideline, and is based on years of experience.

Any Rat Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated in 2004 and dedicated to educating new rat owners about the proper care of the pet rat and finding forever loving homes for unwanted, abandoned and often neglected pet rats in need.

Please feel free to contact us at any time. We will be happy to assist you any way possible.

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Facebook

@Any Rat Rescue (AZ)



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Photo credit: Brandi Saxton

**Info and adoption application:** <https://anyratrescue.org/adopt-2/>

**Adoptable rats via Petfinder:** <https://anyratrescue.org/adopt/>

No set fees for adoption. We welcome your donation.

# When to take your rat to the vet



Take your pet to the vet **IMMEDIATELY** if you notice:

- Unconsciousness, disorientation, or spastic movements
- Heavy bleeding or bleeding that won't stop
- Immobility: sudden impaired movement in any limbs, lameness, swelling of limbs
- Traumatic injury such as wounds, lacerations, attack by another animal, fall, being stepped on, etc.
- Exposure to the elements: extreme heat or cold
- Foreign bodies or injury to the eyes: discharge, swelling, lens cloudiness
- Blood in mucous, stools, urine, anus, genitals
- Ingestion of poisonous materials (plants, household cleansers, anti-freeze)
- Gasping for breath
- Fingers, nails, toes, gums and ears turning pale or blue
- Sudden uncommon lethargy, inactivity, refusal to eat or drink

See your vet **PROMPTLY** if you notice:

- Upper respiratory symptoms including frequent sneezing, clicking, or rattling sounds in the chest
- Runny nose or red stains around the nose or eyes (porphyrin)
- Runny eyes; squinty eyes
- Hunched posture
- Lack of appetite or interest in drinking water

Other health symptoms that **indicate** a vet visit:

- Weight loss, intermittent diarrhea or constipation, chronic intestinal symptoms: persistent diarrhea, reduced appetite, persistent constipation
- Unusual swelling in any part of the body or unusual discharge
- Lumps or tumors
- Hair loss, scabs or persistent scratching
- Gradual impairment of limbs, hind limb paralysis, lameness
- Changes in behavior or other unusual health symptoms



## Any Rat Rescue's Arizona exotics vet list

<https://anyratrescue.org/vets/> (or use QR code)

**A note about porphyrin:** *Porphyrin is an iron oxide pigment in tears and mucous that can look like blood around the eyes and nose. Some rats produce more than others and it is not always a sign of illness. Increased porphyrin stains or runny eyes or nose can be signs of illness, pain or stress.*



# Getting started

## Socializing

Rat Care FAQs: <https://www.rmca.org/Resources/rmcafaq.htm>

Introducing new rats: <http://www.ratfanclub.org/newrat.html>

Why rats need company: <http://www.rmca.org/Resources/apair.txt>

Rat behavior/terms: <http://www.ratbehavior.org/Glossary.htm>

Body language: <https://anyratrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02Bodylanguage-1.jpg>



## Food

Suebee staple rat diet: <http://www.ratsrule.com/diet.html>

ARR's adapted Suebee mix: <https://anyratrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/ARR-SueBee-Mix-021122.pdf>

(or use QR code)



## Medical

*A knowledgeable rat vet is crucial!*

*Please find a trusted vet before you need one!*

- How to Find a Good Rat Vet: <http://www.ratfanclub.org/vetgood.html>
- U.S. Vet Referral List: [www.ratfanclub.org/vetref.html](http://www.ratfanclub.org/vetref.html)
- Health and Wellness Guide: <https://ratguide.com/>
- Common medications: <http://www.rmca.org/Articles/dchart.htm>



Cedar and Pine Toxicity: [www.ratsrule.com/cedar.html](http://www.ratsrule.com/cedar.html)

Coping With Allergies to Rats: [ratfanclub.org/allergy.html](http://ratfanclub.org/allergy.html)

## Breeding

**Any Rat Rescue does not condone breeding your pet rats!** Rats have large litters that average 10-12 babies. Babies can breed at five weeks of age, so males and females must be separated at that time. A female can get pregnant again within 24 hours of giving birth -- and mating can even take place through cage bars! Gestation is only three weeks.

**Advice:** <https://rmca.org/Articles/breeding.htm>

**Reproduction FAQs:** [www.ratfanclub.org/repro.html](http://www.ratfanclub.org/repro.html)

**Growth and development of babies:** <http://www.afrma.org/babyratdevdaily.htm>

**Determining gender in baby rats:** <https://www.afrma.org/sexing101.htm>

**Should you spay?** Benefits of spaying (apart from preventing unwanted litters) include a significant decrease in the incidence of both mammary and pituitary tumors and an extended life span. Spaying seems to be one of the best ways to ensure your female rats live as long as possible.