

# Rat Care Costs



## **Housing and Bedding: \$40–200**

The best housing option for your pet rat is a wire enclosure at least 18 inches x 36 inches. Make sure that the bar spacing is thin enough (less than ½ inch) so your rat does not slip through. There should be a solid surface throughout the enclosure to protect your rat's feet.

Paper-based bedding and wood-based bedding are safe for rats—they absorb urine and cut down on odors. Avoid cedar and pine beddings, as these can cause respiratory damage.

Aspen Bedding: \$5–6 (9-liter bag)

CareFresh: \$5 (10-liter bag)

## **Housing Accessories: \$40–80**

It is important for rats to have at least one hour outside of their enclosure each day. Providing your rat with a variety of toys, exercise, and mental stimulation will help her remain happy and healthy.

Hammock or sling: \$15

Hide-a-ways: \$5–25

Chewing items, such as rawhide, Nylabones, cardboard tubes, and chew sticks: \$2

Ledges or branches for extra play space in the cage: \$20

Toys: \$5

Exercise Wheel: \$10–40

## **Food and Treats: \$25 Per Month**

Lab Blocks: \$3–8 (2 pound bag)

Grain mix treats (cereal, oats, banana chips, dry pasta): \$5–10

Fruits/Veggies: \$10–15

## **Medical Costs: \$100–500**

The most common health concerns in rats include upper respiratory infections, mites, and tumors. Not all veterinary hospitals care for small animals, and those that do, may be costly.

Tumor removal: \$150–400

Upper Respiratory Infection medication: \$10–40

Mites medication: \$20–30