

Ready to Adopt a Rat



Top Ten Reasons to Adopt a Rat

1. They love to snuggle—with people, with one another, in a pocket, in a hammock. They will make themselves adorably cozy anywhere!
2. They are adventurous! They would love it if you made them a maze or let them climb up on your shoulders.
3. They love to learn tricks and are extremely smart! They're almost like tiny dogs that way.
4. They keep themselves fastidiously clean.
5. A group of rats is called a mischief; wouldn't you love a mischief of rats in your home?
6. They are very quiet and don't need to be walked.
7. They have individual personalities: some are more snuggly, some are more adventurous, and some are more interested in training.
8. They are low-maintenance in many ways: they are able to entertain one another for much of the day and are easy to clean up after.
9. They nibble treats with their adorable tiny hands.
10. Many rats give kisses! What's better than the tiniest kiss imaginable?

Ready to Adopt a Rat *(continued)*

Life with a rat comes with many benefits, but also involves many responsibilities. Living with a rat can be a wonderful experience because they are affectionate, playful, smart, and trainable. While they need physical and mental stimulation, they do not need to be walked. They are meticulous self-groomers who also use a litter box! However, it is important to carefully think through the decision to adopt, because owning a rat is a commitment that can last around two years.

Some things to consider:

Transition Time: Transitioning a rat into your home may take days to weeks.

Enrichment Time: Rats need at least one hour a day outside of their pen for physical and mental stimulation.

Cleaning Time: Cages should be cleaned two–three times each week and litter boxes should be cleaned daily.

Space Needs: While we encourage your rat to have access to the home, it is important that she has a safe place to stay until she is completely comfortable with her new home, as well as a place to retreat to anytime she needs a little space and alone time.

Social Needs: We strongly encourage adopters to adopt two rats because they are extremely social animals who prefer the companionship of one another to a human.

Medical Needs: Rats need an annual checkup with a rat-savvy veterinarian. Make sure your veterinarian has experience with rats and sees them regularly. Be prepared, too, for emergencies.

Vacation Needs: Make sure you have someone who is able to take care of your rat when you go on vacation.

Financial Needs: Expect to pay anywhere from \$40–100 each month to care for your rat's essentials. This includes food, litter, housing, bedding, and toys.