


 1-3 years

 3-8 inches

 Beginner

 65-75

 Pellets, Seeds & Grains



Rats are highly intelligent, social, playful animals, and make wonderful pets! They are very easy to tame, and handle; some people say that their pet rats come by name. Because rats are such social animals, it is a very good idea to get at least two of the same gender, so they do not become lonely. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet; please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

#### CAGE SET UP

Rats need space to roam and room for their toys and ramps, as they are very playful animals. When the rats are young, be careful not to get a cage that will allow the rat to fit through the bars. As the rat gets larger, a Kaytee "My First Home" rat habitat or Ferret Nation habitat would make great homes. They are large and airy, with plenty of space to play.

#### BEDDING

Care Fresh, recycled paper bedding, or soft wood shavings will work well with your pet rats. To alleviate any issue with sneezing and wheezing, we suggest the non-wood products, as they are less dusty. As always, NEVER use cedar shavings with any small animal. It can negatively affect the respiratory tract in small animals.

#### TEMPERATURE

Room temperature, between 65-75°F, is ideal for rats. They are fine in cooler temperatures as well, but make sure to avoid any direct sunlight on them for long periods of time, as they will overheat. The potential of dehydration is present with any small animal that overheats.

#### FOOD

Any quality rat or rodent food is fine for the rats. They are omnivores and enjoy a variety in their diet, such as rodent pellets, fruits, vegetables, and grains.

#### HANDLING

Rats love attention and human interaction. You may find that your rat may not want to go back into its' home after playtime with you, as they love to be handled. Young rats are very fast, and may jump out of your hands as you are holding it, so handle with care.

#### CAGE CLEANING

Clean your rats' cage daily, and replace soiled bedding. You can try to litter train using small animal litter in a pan in the corner of the cage. Some say it is not difficult to do, as rats are very intelligent.

#### ACCESSORIES AND CHEW TOYS

Rats are very playful, and enjoy almost anything you give them for entertainment. Keep a variety of hard woods in the cage for your pet to chew on. The wooden hides are great also, as they will play on them, in them, around them, and use them for the necessary chewing. Hard vegetables, such as carrots, also make great chews for your pet rat.