

Your New Rat Checklist

- Solid-bottom cage with narrow bar spacing
 - A pair of rats should be in a space no less than 2'x3'x3'
 - We recommend Critter Nation cages or large bird cages of comparable size with safe platforms
 - Rats should not be kept individually; always keep in groups or pairs
- Rat appropriate pellets
 - These should be large blocks or triangles (not shaped like rabbit food) to encourage chewing and wearing of teeth
 - Avoid pellets with large quantities of seeds or colored pieces. Rats will seek these out and waste the healthy pieces similar to a child picking marshmallows out of breakfast cereal
- Cage bedding
 - Acceptable contact bedding materials include fluffy paper bedding or kiln-dried aspen.
 - **DO NOT USE CEDAR BEDDING.** The chemical in cedar that smells pleasant to humans burns their respiratory tracts and feet.
- Heavy food dish
 - We recommend ceramic crocks that are too heavy to tip or stainless steel that can be secured to the side of the cage. Plastic can be chewed to pieces and harbor bacteria while ceramic and metal can be easily sanitized.
- Safe, covered area such as an igloo or large diameter PCV pipe to use as a den and safe sleeping/hiding area
- Bricks, rocks, cardboard boxes, exercise wheel & other safe toys
- Attachable water bottle with drinking tube
 - We recommend using bottles designed to be secured to the outside of cages or glass bottles to discourage chewing on the plastic and thus flooding their cage
- Untreated wood or vegetable dog biscuits to help wear down teeth
- Appropriate treats such as
 - Banana
 - Melons
 - Broccoli
 - Cabbage (not red cabbage)
 - Endive
 - Bok choy/other Asian greens
 - Berries
 - Fresh corn (small amount only) and peas.
 - Cereals
 - Cooked pasta and rice
 - And more!
- Carrier to bring your new pet home and for trips to the vet
- Rat safe leash/harness if you intend to leash-train your rat

