



EASY TO SEX: Yes

LIFE SPAN: 2-4 Years

AVERAGE SIZE: 10 inches

AVERAGE WEIGHT: 450g



## FANCY RAT

### Habitat

The best home for your Fancy Rat would be easy to clean and kept at room temperature. A glass or plastic tank or wire cage with a plastic tray are preferable. Rats are social creatures and need the company of other rats. They use their sense of smell to recognise others, finding out about where they've been and what they've been doing. As Rats are social animals, if they are alone, they can get depressed and develop abnormal behaviour. They should be housed in same sex groups.

### Maintenance

Your Fancy Rat will need a dry, draught free clean place to live where they can be left undisturbed. Create a bed and nesting area using dust free wood shavings or any other absorbent bedding to soak up the urine and make it easier clean. Rats like making their own nests and spend lots of time playing with nesting material. Do not use fluffy bedding such as cotton wool or anything than can separate into thin strands as that can cause serious health issues. Clean out your Rats cage at least once a week. Rats control their temperature through their tails and the soles of their paws. When the weather heats up, it's important to protect your rats from heat stroke or heat exhaustion.

### Feeding and Water

Feed your Rats a specific balanced commercial pelleted diet especially for rats. Consider supplementing their diet with small amounts of fresh fruit, vegetables, cooked egg, grains or seeds and provide fresh water at all times. Encourage natural foraging behaviours. They enjoy holding/manipulating food in their paws.

## Handling

Interact with your Rat every day and handle as much as you can once they are used to you. If handled regularly, Rats can become very tame. Rats are active and like playing, especially when young so put some ropes in their cage to allow them to climb and play, they will also develop their sense of balance. Rats will chew ropes so ensure they are made from natural fibres.

## Health

It is important to ensure your Rat is kept happy and healthy, you should review any changes in their behaviour and condition and seek veterinary treatment where required. The below table shows common health problems with Rats.

| Health Issue        | Symptoms & Causes                                                                                             | Suggested Action                                              |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Diarrhoea           | Loose stool caused by bad diet, unclean housing, stress or parasites                                          | Consult Vet to determine cause and treatment                  |
| Malocclusion        | Overgrown Teeth                                                                                               | Consult Vet to possibly have teeth trimmed                    |
| Mites               | External parasites that cause Rats to lose patches of fur                                                     | Consult Vet for treatment                                     |
| Respiratory Disease | Caused from dirty/dusty cages or poor ventilation                                                             | Consult Vet for treatment                                     |
| Tumours & growths   | Abnormal lumps that may cause discomfort to your pet.                                                         | Consult Vet for treatment, left untreated these can be fatal. |
| Chromodacry orrhoea | Red staining around eyes & nose can indicate stress, possibly from illness, social or environmental problems. | Consult Vet for treatment                                     |