



All Creatures Animal Hospital

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Rats As Pets

Average Lifespan: 2-5 years

Diet

- Rodent pellet food provides the best nutrient ratios for your pet.
- Fruits and vegetables can be given as supplements and treats.

Grooming/Bathing

- Oatmeal shampoo can be used if needed.

Spay/Neuter

- Strongly suggested to prevent cancers and behavioral issues.
- Mammary tumors are extremely common in rats. Spaying helps prevent these.

Housing Recommendations

- Tall wire caging is suggested due to rat's chewing behaviors.
- Use caging with a solid bottom so your pet does not get caught in metal grating.
- Places to hide and tunnel must be provided for comfort and entertainment.
- Paper bedding is best to use (avoid cedar, pine, and sawdust bedding).

Annual Exam Recommendations

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet. We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for internal parasites.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian check for any physical abnormalities.
- Teeth must be checked for dental disease at every exam.

Common Medical Conditions

- Dental disease is common as teeth constantly grow. Watch for loss of appetite and increased drooling.
- Cancer is very common in rats. Watch for any lumps or tumors (neoplasia).
- Internal parasites can occur causing diarrhea and loss of appetite.
- Respiratory infection can occur causing eye and nasal discharge and/or sneezing
- "Bumblefoot" is a staphylococcal infection that can occur causing small red bumps, inflammation and bleeding on one or both feet of your pet rat.