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Understanding Rat Habits!

By Tiara James

Mankind and the rat have been at odds for thousands of years. Rats spread disease, eat our crops,

leave droppings and make nests in our storage areas, and infest our homes. Rodent removal services are an important part of pest extermination even now in the 21st century. Rat poison can be obtained in most hardware stores, grocery stores, and even for free from city agencies in some areas. While one may want to get rid of rats, one certainly does not want a hazard to the children or pets of the family. Research continues to create a product that fits this bill but in the meantime one should be aware of the signs of rat poisoning particularly if your pet travels with you to places outside the home where bait may be left out.

RAT AND MICE HABITS

1. Rats tend to be cautious and mice are more curious. 2. Rats tend to eat most of their food at one time. 3. Mice while being nibblers eating many times at different places. 4. It is important to remove their food sources—but do not disturb the rodent habitat, until a complete knockdown and elimination occurs before they could move to another area. 5. A successful rodent control program includes a combination of baiting and trapping for the highest rate of success.

You may also want to consider integrating your program with exclusion techniques and a general cleanup, removal of their hiding places (harboring areas.). If the population is large, you will want to begin with a high quality rodent bait, to quickly knock down a population and prevent rapid growth.

There are different types of baits to choose from: blocks, pellets, seeds ; each rodent population is different in their preferences, so a little of each is a good choice in bait selections.

When baiting initially , try not to disturb their original habitats or they may run to another area.

After baiting has begun, continue with sanitation procedures, food source removal, and harborage removal to ensure additional rodents from nearby areas are not attracted to your location

Mankind and Rats has been at odds for thousands of years. Find out About Poison Rat at

<http://PoisonRat.ewhy.info>

Pet Rat Care: The Top 10 Mistakes Of New Rat Owners

By Colin Patterson

Being a dedicated rat owner can be very rewarding. All it takes is a little research and a lot of preparation.

If you're getting ready to adopt a rat as a cherished pet, there are some pitfalls that you should be aware of beforehand. Here are 10 of the most common pet rat care mistakes that first-time rattie owners make:

1. Getting only one rat.

A person might think that getting two rats is too much extra work... or that a pet rat will bond with a human owner more readily if there is no other rat around to become friends with. The truth is that rats are highly social creatures. They need to have other rat-friends to play with and to "talk" to. Furthermore, taking care of two rats is not much more work than caring for one.

2. Getting the wrong kind of bedding.

Sometimes a rat owner will want to cut corners and use newspaper or cheap bedding. Rats are very sensitive to the chemicals in the ink and cheap bedding can often have dusty particles that will irritate their lungs. If you see a red discharge coming from their noses, chances are, there is an irritant present in the air. Pine wood chips are not safe!

3. Feeding the rats an imbalanced diet.

No, it's not cute how your furry friends can eat almost as much pizza as you. Caring for pet rats means feeding them healthy food. Look, there's no excuse. Fruits and veggies are not expensive items to buy; also, be sure they get their share of lab blocks, seeds, and a daily dab of a vitamin supplement.

4. Not cleaning the cage often or thoroughly enough.

Their urine will decompose and produce ammonia. This, along with the decomposing bedding can irritate their lungs. Yes, it's a pain to do. But putting up with the unpleasant aspects will only help you to appreciate them more. Clean and disinfect with bleach-water once a week, or up to two weeks, maximum.

5. Not taking them out to play often enough.

Rats will eventually get depressed if they remain cooped up inside their limited cage environment. If you make play time fun and challenging, you will be looking forward to the bonding time as well!

Understanding Rat Habits!

6. Deciding to breed for the wrong reasons.

Breeding responsibly is not a lucrative or easy hobby to get into, especially at the beginning. Don't get stuck with a litter of rats that wind up becoming snake-food at a pet store. Instead, try investing some time volunteering for or starting an apprenticeship with a breeder.

7. Not giving them enough toys.

If you bore your rats, they will become boring. Rats not only love to play, explore and solve problems, but they actually need to be constantly stimulated by a challenging learning environment. Provide them with a variety of toys and games and switch things around constantly. They'll love you for it!

8. Entering them into a fancy rat show before researching it.

You may love your rats and think they are just the most perfect rats you have ever seen, but the American Fancy Rat and Mouse Association (AFRMA) has very strict standards and those judges have seen hundreds—if not thousands—of rats in their day. Before deciding to enter your rats into a show, visit one first. Interview a handful of judges and learn exactly what makes a rat top in its class. Then decide.

9. Procrastinating on researching a qualified vet for small animals.

The moment one of your rats becomes ill, you will want to have the phone number of a good vet handy. Not all vets will treat small animals or rats. Do the searching beforehand and spare yourself the frustration and desperation an emergency situation can sometimes bring about.

10. Underestimating the importance of belonging to a rat club or rat society.

Belonging to a rat club or rat society such as AFRMA will go a long way in getting your key rat questions answered. Moreover, doing so will connect you with a community of rat lovers who are likely to want to share what they know for the sake of advancing the hobby as a whole.

Colin Patterson is author of a guide to pet rat care that will explain all you need to know if you're thinking about getting pet rats. Visit Colin's site at

<http://www.petratguide.com>



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