



# Nibbles Rodent & Rabbit Rescue

Registered Charity Number: 1168657

Located near Crymch

[www.nibbles.org.uk](http://www.nibbles.org.uk)

A Life is Rescued  
Love is Adopted

## Rat Facts

As social a social species, rats need company of their own kind.

Rats live for between 1 ½ -2 years, sometimes even older.

Rats are highly intelligent and really easy to train. They can be taught all sorts of tricks and can even learn to come when called.

Rats use their tails to regulate their body temperature.

Rats love to ride around on their owner's shoulder.

Rats make affectionate and interactive pets who enjoy the company of their owners as much as they enjoy the company of other rats.

Rats are active both during the day and the night.

Rats are omnivorous and can pretty much eat anything, including cooked chicken bones. However, the general rule is foods which are unhealthy for humans are also unhealthy for rats.

Despite the myths associated with rats, they are actually incredibly clean animals and can even be trained to use a litter tray. They spend lots of time grooming themselves and their cage mates.

## Basic Rat Care

### Healthy Diet

Rats, like humans, are omnivorous and require a varied diet to stay healthy. It is best to make your own rat mix from a base of a muesli based rat or hamster diet, human breakfast cereals such as cornflakes and branflakes (look for brands low in sugar), and a small amount of good quality dog kibble. Rats also enjoy fresh vegetables and fruit, and even pieces of cooked chicken and chicken bones. The simple rule of thumb is that if it's unhealthy for humans, it's unhealthy for rats. Too much sugar and fat leads to all the same problems in rats as it does humans.

### Housing

A pair of rats will require a minimum cage size of 100cm (l) x 50cm (w) x 116cm (h), but bigger is always better. We recommend:



**Savic Zeno 3 Empire** which can be purchased from Zooplus at [https://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/sm-all\\_pets/hutches\\_cages/rat\\_cage/525877](https://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/sm-all_pets/hutches_cages/rat_cage/525877)

**Corner Rat & Ferret Cage** which can be purchased from PetPlanet at [https://www.petplanet.co.uk/product.asp?dept\\_id=456&pf\\_id=77484](https://www.petplanet.co.uk/product.asp?dept_id=456&pf_id=77484)



### Care

Housing will need to be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week and spot cleaned every 2-3 days. Rats love to climb and plenty of shelves and ropes should be added to the cage. They also love to sleep in hammocks and love hanging toys. Fresh drinking water should always be available via a water bottle. Rats should be kept on a paper based bedding such as chopped cardboard, carefresh or megazorb. Some rats enjoy running in wheels, wheels need to be a minimum of 28cm in diameter and have a rim of at least 15cm.

For more information on rat care and welfare we recommend:

[www.ratz.co.uk](http://www.ratz.co.uk)