

Rat Behavior

Gnawing & Chewing

Rat's teeth grow constantly and need to be maintained through their natural behavior of chewing to prevent overgrowth of their incisors. Be sure to offer rat-safe chew toys in their habitat and to rat-proof any spaces you allow them to have access to. Supervised time outside their habitat is important so they do not get access to items you do not wish to be chewed such as clothing, drapes, furniture, power cords, and more.

Burrowing & Digging

Both burrowing and digging are instinctive behaviors of rats. They should be given opportunities to dig tunnels and create burrows; providing them plenty of rat-safe bedding will allow them to perform this behavior. You can also give your rats a dig box filled with clean sand, biodegradable packing peanuts, or other rat-safe materials.

Nocturnal

Rats are nocturnal so they are most active at night and during dawn and dusk. We suggest you keep socializing, cleaning their habitat, and other interactions to dawn or dusk. Avoid housing them in areas of the home which have lots of activity during the day.

Sociable

Rats are social animals. They should never be housed individually as they can become depressed when they are kept alone even with lots of human interaction. Rats need other rat company at night when they're most active and when humans are asleep. Rats can develop abnormal behaviors if left without company and nothing to do for long periods.

Rats kept with other rats are just as friendly with people. Regular calm and gentle contact with you will allow them to slowly develop a bond. Reward them with treats to help them enjoy your company. Rats can build close relationships with owners and be successfully trained.

Exercise

Rats should be given plenty of opportunities to climb, run, hop, forage, explore, and play in their habitat. Giving them ropes helps develop their sense of balance. Rats are active and like playing, especially when young. Giving them opportunities for supervised exploration is a great way to provide enrichment and exercise. Another great way to keep your rat physically and mentally active is to consider training them. Rats can learn new information and tasks and remember them over time. They are quick learners, very clever, curious, and have excellent memories.

