



HOME CAGE

MAKE SURE THAT YOU PROVIDE YOUR RATS WITH A SUITABLE HOME CAGE. THE CAGE SHOULD:

- be as large as possible, with lots of space so that your rats can perform all natural behaviours, including providing your rats with a choice of where to go to the toilet;
- include complex and enriched space, with a variety of horizontal and vertical barriers (walls and platforms), objects (tunnels, ropes, hammocks), materials (wood, cloth, paper tissues) and structures (ladders, shelters) to encourage your rats to explore and exercise;
- provide places to hide, climb and investigate at different heights within the cage;
- have a solid floors, not wire mesh, as wire floors can lead to foot problems;
- be safe and secure and not allow your rats to escape (regularly check that their cage is still intact as rats can chew through some materials such as wood and plastic);
- be free from any projections which may harm your rats.

MAKE SURE THAT THE TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY OF ANY PLACE YOU HOUSE YOUR RATS IS APPROPRIATE. THEIR HOME-CAGE SHOULD BE:

- kept in an area of the house which does not get very hot or cold (i.e. not kept in a conservatory, garage or shed) (an ideal temperature for rats is 19-23°C);
- kept away from extremes of humidity (i.e. not kept in bathrooms or in air conditioned rooms);
- located away from dirty and/or dusty environments;
- well ventilated but kept out of draughts;
- moved to a cooler part of the home if summer temperatures are high.

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RSPCA Rat Care Advice

RSPCA COMPANION ANIMALS PET CARE FACTSHEET



MAKE SURE THAT THEIR HOME-CAGE IS KEPT AWAY FROM HIGH PITCHED SOUNDS, ULTRASOUND, LONG TERM AND UNPREDICTABLE SUDDEN BURSTS OF NOISE.

DO NOT HOUSE THEM NEAR:

- alarms, telephones, door-bells, lawnmowers, vacuum cleaners, stereo's/HiFi's and high-pressure hoses;
- electrical equipment (such as computer screens, tvs etc);
- anywhere where water might run into metal containers (such as the kitchen);
- any other high pitched or sudden bursts of sound.



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