



RSPCA Rat Care Advice

RSPCA COMPANION ANIMALS PET CARE FACTSHEET



NESTING MATERIAL

MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS PROVIDE SUITABLE NESTING MATERIAL FOR YOUR RATS

- All rodents need nesting material to regulate their body temperature and rats also enjoy making nests;
- Suitable materials are hay, shredded paper, paper strips and paper tissues;
- Provide your rats with a variety of different nesting materials to give them a choice over what they use and so they can build good nests. Rats enjoy shredding nesting materials such as white tissue paper to create their own nests;
- Do not give your rats nesting materials that separate into thin strands such as cotton wool or similar 'fluffy' bedding products.
 - They pose a serious risk to their health and welfare.
 - There is concern that this material can cause harm if eaten, and thin strands that form in this material can be difficult to break.
 - This material can lead to a rat becoming tangled up in their bedding, and/or the loss of circulation in tangled limbs resulting in amputation or unfortunately euthanasia.
- Highly absorbent materials should not be used for nesting material.



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