



RATS AND SWIMMING

SOME, BUT NOT ALL, RATS CAN ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO SWIM

- Never force your rats to swim. Rats find forced swimming highly stressful.
- If your rats enjoy playing with water, provide your rats with the opportunity to swim, in a safe and supervised manner.

You can do this in the following way:

- The water bath must always be shallow (e.g. shallow tray of water) and designed to allow the rats to get in and out easily when they want to.
- Never leave your rats with access to a water-bath without supervision.
- Only provide your rats with access to water bath, as part of supervised 'free-ranging' (i.e. outside the home-cage) behaviour (see our advice on [Free-ranging behaviour in rats](#)), not as part of their home-cage.
- Water provided for swimming must be at room temperature.
- Never place your rats directly into water; your rats must have free choice to decide to go in and out of the water themselves.



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