



RSPCA Rat Care Advice

RSPCA COMPANION ANIMALS PET CARE FACTSHEET



TRANSPORTING YOUR RATS

DO NOT TRANSPORT YOUR RATS UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

IF YOU HAVE TO TRANSPORT YOUR RATS MAKE SURE YOU PROVIDE FOR ALL THEIR NEEDS AND THAT YOU REDUCE THE STRESS OF TRANSPORTATION WHEREVER POSSIBLE:

- Use a suitable, secure pet cage as a familiar travelling cage (e.g. a small rodent cage).
- Provide bedding material and unsoiled nesting material for comfort, as well as a hiding place.
- Make sure your rats have access to food and water (food can be given as pellets, and to avoid spillages and/or the flooding of the cage, water can be given as pieces of apple, pear, or potato unless it is a long journey).
- If possible transport any cage mates, which your rat is usually housed with, with them. This not only helps to reduce the stress of transport, but can also help to reduce aggression upon re-introduction to their group.
- Make sure that the cage is secured within the vehicle and protected as much as possible from noise, bright light, vibration, heat and cold.
- Make sure the transport cage has a cover to keep it dark. However it is important that it also allows air to pass in and out of the cage for ventilation without being open to drafts.
- Transport them in a quiet, air-conditioned car, rather than on public transport.
- Plan your route to minimise journey time and maintain suitable comfort and environmental conditions.



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