

RSPCA Rat Care Advice

RSPCA COMPANION ANIMALS PET CARE FACTSHEET



FREE-RANGING BEHAVIOUR

ONCE YOUR RATS ARE WELL-HANDLED AND RELAXED, CONSIDER ALLOWING THEM TIMES FOR SUPERVISED 'FREE-RANGING' BEHAVIOUR

- You can do this by letting them explore outside of their cage in an area where they cannot hurt themselves or escape;
- Choose a room that you are happy to be explored by your rats (including contents as they may chew things) OR
- You could provide a large exercise pen with lots of objects for the rat to explore, and space for them to run, climb, hop and play, including providing them with a digging arena (see our advice on <u>Digging behaviour</u> <u>in rats</u>), water bath (see our advice on <u>Rats and Swimming</u>), and foraging tray (see our advice on <u>Foraging behaviour in rats</u>);
- Remember rats will chew, gnaw and scent mark;
- Always supervise free-ranging behaviour. This will not only form a close bond between you and your rat, but will also prevent the rat from escaping or coming to harm;
- Remember any area you use should be designed to encourage natural behaviour.







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