



## 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.



*This pet care sheet has been produced by the RSPCA Companion Animals Department (V1 CAD/KW 11.08.11). This leaflet is provided for general information only and is not intended to be relied upon as specific advice. Whilst we try to ensure that the information is correct, we cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information, nor for any reliance on or use of the leaflet.*