



Vetafarm's Pet Rat & Mouse Care Guide

Rats & mice are intelligent, social animals that thrive on a balanced diet, a safe environment, and regular health care.

↓ Getting Started

Nutrition & Feeding

A balanced diet is key to keeping your rats and mice healthy and active. Feed a high-quality rodent pellet as the main diet to provide all essential vitamins, minerals, and proteins. Offer fresh vegetables daily, such as leafy greens, carrot, broccoli, or capsicum, and small portions of fruit a few times a week as a treat.



Complete Pellet Diet

Rats and mice have a natural ability to survive on a wide variety of foods, however, low-quality diets can impact their long term health. Feeding a formulated, extruded pellet diet – such as **Rodent Origins** – ensures your pet receives all of the essential nutrition necessary to thrive.



Selective Snackers

Due to the flexibility of diet in wild rodents, pet rats and mice have some unique behaviours to keep in mind when feeding to ensure optimum health.

Concentrate Selectors

Rats and mice will pick the fattiest and tastiest foods from their bowls first.

Suspicious Samplers

Rats are usually suspicious of new food sources and will sample small amounts to test the effects on their digestive system.

Healthy Treats

Offering healthy treats such as fruits, vegetables and **Vetafarm's Deli Stix** or **Origins Chews** adds variety and provides safe chewing enrichment.

Treats can also help build trust and strengthen the bond between you and your pet.



Housing

Indoor mice and rats thrive in a spacious, well-ventilated cage with solid flooring, multiple levels for climbing, and plenty of hiding spots for security. Use soft, absorbent bedding (paper-based or fleece) and include toys, tunnels, and ropes to encourage natural climbing and foraging behaviour. Keep their enclosure clean, dry, and away from drafts or direct sunlight.

Enrichment

Mice and rats are intelligent, active animals that love to climb, explore, and problem-solve. Providing toys, tunnels, ropes, and chew blocks keeps them mentally stimulated and physically fit. Hideouts, nesting materials, and foraging activities encourage natural behaviours and prevent boredom. Offering healthy treats like Deli Stix, nuts and seeds add variety to their diet and helps strengthen the bond between you and your pets.

General Wellbeing

Snuffles

Snuffles (AKA Chronic Respiratory Disease) is a nasal discharge with noisy or laboured breathing in pet rats. If you notice your rat sneezing consistently, see your veterinarian for an assessment.

Mites & Lice

Mites and lice in the coat of your rat or mouse can cause severe stress and sometimes even be fatal. Keep their environment clean and disinfect regularly to prevent infestations.

Metabolic Bone Disease

Metabolic Bone Disease (MBD) is caused when a rodent is provided with an incorrect or poor diet. MBD is 100% preventable by providing a balanced diet to your pet.

Vetafarm's Pet Rat & Mouse Checklist



Nutrition & Feeding

- ☐ **Quality Pellets***
Such as Vetafarm's Rodent Origins
- ☐ **Fruits & Veggies**
- ☐ **Healthy Treats**
Such as Vetafarm's Deli Stix

* If choosing not to feed a complete pellet (e.g. fruit & veggie mix, chaff mix or low-quality pellet), adding a vitamin supplement such as **Vetafarm's Vitasol Drops** is essential.

Health & Hygiene

- ☐ **Pest Control**
Such as Vetafarm's Insect & Mite Spray
- ☐ **Dry Bathing Powder**
Such as Vetafarm's Dusting & Bathing Powder
- ☐ **Shampoo**
Such as Vetafarm's Fluffy Bath Shampoo
- ☐ **Grooming Brush**
- ☐ **Nail Clippers**

Home & Environment

- ☐ **Spacious Pen / Enclosure**
With multiple levels and solid flooring
- ☐ **Litter Box with Paper-Based Litter**
Ensure a paper-based litter is used for safety
- ☐ **Food Bowl**
- ☐ **Safe Chew Toys, Tunnels & Ropes**
- ☐ **Bedding Material**
Paper-based or fleece are best
- ☐ **Secure Hiding Place / Shelter**
- ☐ **Water Bottle / Bowl**
- ☐ **Animal-Safe Disinfectant**
Such as Vetafarm's Hutch Clean



Discover our Origins Small Animal Range