



7311 East Thomas Rd. / Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Phone: 480-945-8484 / Fax: 480-945-8766

Hours: 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week!

Website: [www.tsvcpets.com](http://www.tsvcpets.com)

## Rat Care

### Nutrition

- *Rats are omnivores!* They require a good quality lab block (pelleted diet) in addition to fresh fruits, vegetables, and freshly cooked pastas. Most love yogurt (avoid artificial sweeteners) and nuts as treats. They can also eat most human foods, but nothing too high in fat.
- *Seeds, peanuts, and dried corn are junk food for your pet.* They should only be given as treats.

### Healthcare

- *Common illnesses* include upper respiratory infections, pneumonia, arthritis, and tumors.
- *Spay your pet!* Spaying your pet rat prevents breast cancer, uterine infections, uterine cancer, ovarian cysts, and unwanted rats. Spaying increases a female rat's life span by an average of 6 months.
- *We recommend adoption.* There are too many rats looking for homes at the local humane society, rat and critter rescues. Ask a staff member for phone numbers.

### Take your rat to the vet immediately if you notice any of the following signs:

- Disorientation, spastic movements, or unconsciousness
- Heavy bleeding, or bleeding that won't stop
- Immobility= impaired movement in any limbs or swelling of limbs
- Exposure to extreme hot or cold
- Foreign bodies or injury to eyes (discharge, swelling, cloudiness)
- Trauma= attacks by another animal, fall, being stepped on, etc.
- Blood in mouth, stools, urine, anus, or genitals
- Ingestion of poisonous material (plants, household cleaners, antifreeze)
- Gasping for breath
- Feet, nose, or tongue turning pale or blue
- Sudden lethargy, inactivity, refusal to eat or drink

### Schedule an appointment with the vet if you notice these following signs:

- Frequent sneezing, coughing, clicking or rattling sounds in chest
- Runny nose, porphyrin (reddish discharge) around nose or eyes, squinting
- Hunched posture
- Weight loss
- Lumps or growths
- Hair loss, scabs, or persistent scratching
- Changes in behavior

### Important Rat and Mouse Care Websites

Any Rat Rescue, Inc. [www.anyratrescue.org](http://www.anyratrescue.org)

Rodent Fancy [www.rodentfancy.com](http://www.rodentfancy.com)

Rat and Mouse Club of America [www.rmca.org](http://www.rmca.org)

• Dr. Rowena D'Monte • Dr. William Langhofer • Dr. Makenzie Kurth • Dr. Joseph Lockhart  
• Dr. Daniel Fonza • Dr. Jill Kirschenbaum • Dr. Erin Greenwood • Dr. Heather Riedy  
• Dr. Nicole Winterwood • Dr. Emma Kulkarni