



# Domestic Rat

R.rattus  
R. norvegicus



## What is the history of my relationship to man?

Specially bred as pets at least since the late 19th century, the rats are sociable, intelligent animals that can be trained to come when called, use a litter box, and perform a variety of tricks.

### Habitat / Climate

Rats are able to survive in almost any environment.

### Where am I from?

The origin of the modern fancy rat begins with the rat-catchers of the 18th and 19th centuries who trapped rats throughout Europe.

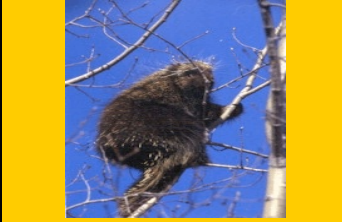


### Other family members:

- Porcupine
- Patagonian mara
- Chinchilla

### Who are my relatives?

The fancy rat or pet rat is a domesticated breed of the brown rat. Other types of Rodents are the Egyptian Jerboa, Capybara and the Degu



### Breeding

Rats can breed throughout the year if conditions are suitable.

### How am I born?

Our gestation period is only 21 days and litters can number up to fourteen, although seven is common. When lactating, female rats display a 24 hour rhythm of maternal behavior, and will usually spend more time attending to smaller litters than large ones.

### How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live

The maximum life span is up to three years, although most barely manage one. A yearly mortality rate of 95% is estimated, with predators and interspecies conflict as major causes.

### Breeding Season



### What kind of family life do I

Rats are capable of producing ultrasonic vocalizations. As pups, young rats use different types of ultrasonic cries to call their Mother. We live in large hierarchical groups, so the strongest and oldest are in charge.

### Names for:

- Adult male- Bucks
- Adult female- Does
- Young- Pups
- Group:- Colony

### What do I eat and when do I eat?

We will consume almost anything, but cereals or things made from grain form a substantial part of our diet. We are nocturnal so we gather our food at night and sleep a lot during the day.

### Who are my predators?

Cats and other hunters



Comments

Rats are very smart and can learn to come when called , they also love to eat peanut butter.