

SECOND CHANCE HEROES RAT ADOPTIONS

I'M SORRY, DID YOU SAY YOU HAVE RATS?

Rats are becoming a more popular companion animal, but guardians are still tasked with representing the entire species and changing minds about the stigmatized animals.

STRATEGIES FOR HANDLING THE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH BEING A RAT GUARDIAN

Tips for responding to FAQs from non-rat people



WE LOVE OUR RATS, BUT THEY STILL HAVE A BAD REPUTATION IN THE LARGER SOCIETY

Education is key to changing minds about rats. In order to be an ambassador for our animals, it is helpful to have a thorough understanding of their lives, and what society considers acceptable.



Most people don't have firsthand experience with domesticated rats, but perhaps have known them as vermin that have plagued their homes and caused problems, so it can help to compare rats to other animals that people are more familiar with. Here are some good pieces of trivia to have under your belt.

- They each have distinct personalities
- They can be litter trained, give high fives, spin in circles, and more!
- They dream while they sleep
- They are actually very clean and groom themselves almost as much as cats do
- Nope, they don't bite!
 - (Tailor this response as needed given your rats' personalities)

IT ALSO HELPS TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC WHEN TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE QUESTIONS. TALKING SHAMELESSLY AND LOVINGLY ABOUT YOUR ANIMALS IS MORE LIKELY TO CHANGE THEIR PERCEPTION THAN IF YOU ACT EMBARRASSED AND ASHAMED.

