

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF YOUR RATS' FIRST NIGHT AT HOME



Congratulations on adopting your newest family members! It is an exciting time, and setting your rats up for success on the first night in their new home can set the tone for your relationship moving forward.

While bringing a new rat home is an exciting time for us, it's important to remember that it is a scary transition for your rats.

Certain steps should be taken on the first night and subsequent early days to help create a strong relationship with your new rats, built on trust and love.



DO

Make sure the cage is completely set up before moving your new rats in. Moving items around immediately can add undue stress. There should be several options for hiding places and things to chew.

Let your rats come out of their carrier into their new cage on their own accord. This will help the cage feel like a safe environment right off the bat.

Drop treats in the cage when you walk by. This will help your rats build the association that people bring tasty treats!

Spend time quietly sitting in front of their cage, reading or speaking to them softly.



DON'T

Force your rats to come out of their carrier. They will come out when they are ready!

Handle your rats more than necessary on the first night. They don't know you yet and need to learn that they can trust you.

Play loud music or movies in the area where the rats live. Loud sounds in an unfamiliar environment can be especially scary.

Let other pets meet your new rats on the first night. Let them decompress before allowing cats or dogs to explore the rat room.