

# Housing your rats



## Remember:

- \* Rats are fossorial. This means that they prefer floor space over height.
- \* Rats need 0.5 - 2 sq/m of floor space per rat, with the height of the cage allowing the rat being able to stand up fully on their hind legs.
- \* Make sure you have a lot of burrowing spaces, levels, and hanging spaces for your rats. They should never be forced to climb to be comfortable.
- \* The more levels you add to your cage = the more floor space you have. NB: hammocks and Sputnik's are not considered floor space. Floor space should allow for walking, running, playing, wrestling, etc.



## Things to consider when choosing a cage:



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### Traditional wire cages

- \* These cages favour height over floor space.
- \* Do not offer much in the way of digging opportunities without customization.
- \* Additional suitable levels can be bought.
- \* Can often be expensive.

### Deep base cages

- \* Marketed as bunny cages.
- \* Often have wide bar spacing so they need to be meshed to be suitable for rats.
- \* Provide lots of burrowing opportunities but can often lack climbing space.

### DIY cages

- \* Lots of room for customization to suit your colony's needs.
- \* Can require a lot of tools and work to get them the way you want them.
- \* Can be a more cost effective option depending on materials used.