

COMPILATION OF RAT FACTS

1. The laboratory rat became the first animal domesticated for purely scientific reasons
2. Rats can eat chocolate
3. Rats can chew through glass, cinderblocks, wire, aluminum and lead
4. In 1828 the first albino rats were used in a laboratory experiment to study fasting
5. Rats are omnivores and will eat almost anything
6. Most laboratory rat strains are derived from the albino Wistar rat
7. Female rats can give birth when they are 6 weeks old and are able to have babies up to 12 times per year
8. The Sprague Dawley rat is used extensively in medical research in part because of its calmness and ease of handling
9. The Sprague Dawley rat has a life-span of 2.5 to 3.5 years
10. Zucker rats, a model for obesity, are leptin receptor mutants that can weight twice as much as normal rats
11. Rowett nudes are hairless rats that have no thymus
12. Fuzzy rats are hairless rats identified in a Pennsylvania laboratory in 1976
13. The laboratory rat originated in Asia
14. The oils in cedar and pine are toxic to rats
15. A group of rats is called a mischief
16. Rats have bellybuttons
17. Rats have terrible eyesight and need to use their whiskers to find their way
18. Inbred laboratory rats are created by breeding brother to sister for at least 300 generations
19. The rat genome is 2.75 million base pairs long
20. Rats do not have gallbladders or tonsils
21. Rats can't vomit
22. *Rattus norvegicus* is commonly known as the brown rat
23. *Rattus rattus* is commonly known as the black rat
24. *R. norvegicus* can grow to 10 inches (25 cms) long excluding the tail and weight more than a pound
25. Brown rats are bigger than black rats, just like similarly colored bears
26. Like all rodents, the front incisors of rats never stop growing
27. Rats can swim for half a mile in open water
28. A rat's bite generates 7,000 pounds per square inch (a dog's: 1,000 psi; a human's: 150 psi)
29. Rats don't see in color
30. Rats can communicate ultrasonically
31. A rat's front teeth grow 4.5 to 5.5 inches per year
32. A rat can tread water for 3 days
33. A rat can survive being flushed down a toilet
34. A hindu temple dedicated to the rat goddess Karni Mata in India houses more than 20,000 rats
35. Rats have been proven to make a laughter-like noise (unable to be heard by humans) when tickled

36. Laboratory rats can survive 17-20 days without sleep
37. A rat can fall as far as 50 feet and land uninjured
38. Ancient Romans referred to rats as big mice (Mus Maximus) and mice as little mice (Mus Minimus)
39. The Bubonic Plague was caused by infected fleas jumping from rats to humans
40. There are 64 species under the genus Rattus
41. The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) rat is the first known animal with inherited retinal degeneration
42. Laboratory rats should be kept in rooms set at about 70 degrees Fahrenheit and 50% humidity
43. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the longest lived domestic rat died at 7.3 years of age
44. The rat is the first animal in the Chinese Zodiac
45. The Gambian Pouch rat can reach around 8 pounds in weight
46. Rats cannot sweat, so they use their tails to control their body temperature
47. Rats constantly leave droppings in the areas they frequent
48. Rats are known to carry over 70 diseases, including cholera, typhus and cowpox
49. In many parts of the world the rat remains a source of meat
50. Leviticus 11:29, the third book of the Hebrew Bible, states that rats are prohibited as food
51. Jacko, a 13 pound bull terrier, killed 100 rats in 5 minutes and 28 second in 1862
52. Rat testicles are 2 times the size of those of a 400 pound gorilla
53. Rats are considered the second most successful mammal on Earth; after humans
54. Rats have between 20,000 and 25,000 genes, the same as humans
55. Sprague Dewley rats, a strain of laboratory rat, can birth over 20 pups per litter
56. A female rat can mate up to 500 times with various mates during a 6-hour period of receptivity
57. There is approximately one rat per person in the United States
58. A one-pound rat has between 23 and 32 milliliters of blood
59. The common ancestor of rat and mouse lived approximately 12 to 25 millions of years ago