

Squeakin' Pups

NEWSLETTER

August 21st, 2018

Sixth Edition

!Announcements!

We have FOUR current litters at the rattery. You can follow their growth and progress by Liking our Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/SqueakinPups
Newsletter recipients will receive the first notifications when the litters are available for POTL. Reservation availability will be in our next newsletter in about 10-14 days.

VET RECOMMENDATION

This week's recommendation comes from Casey Moore:

"I had a pair of males that battled chronic respiratory infections and I took them to Rancho San Diego Animal hospital. It was one of the only places I could find here that specialized in small animals... this place was great! They were so gentle with my babies and got them fixed up with some antibiotics. If I needed to get care for any of my babies, I would be coming back here!"

Rancho San Diego Animal Hospital

2988 Jamacha Rd.
El Cajon, CA 92019
(619) 660-6767

<https://www.facebook.com/RSDAH/>

<https://www.rsданimalhospital.com/>

Have a recommendation to share? Message us!

This Week's Deal

www.etsy.com/shop/SqueakinPups

From now until the end of August we are offering our newsletter recipients buy one, get one free on nesting material orders in our Etsy shop. To receive the offer, just mention that you are a newsletter subscriber in the notes section at checkout and we will double the amount of nesting material sent out to you automatically.

Health Tip

Regular physicals are important to the health of your rat. Early detection of lumps, injuries, or noises coming from your rat can be lifesaving. You can easily give your rat a once over at home by following the recommended steps found here:

http://ratguide.com/health/basics/basic_health_check.php

Did You Know...

Rats have life stages somewhat similar to our own. Not all mature at the same rate, but here are some things I've gleaned from watching our grow.

They start off as babies, helpless and dependent on their momma until about 4 weeks of age, when they are eating solids on their own and playing with all the other baby rats.

From 4-8 weeks they are "toddlers." They will still explore much of the world with their mouths, trying to eat almost anything they come in contact with: cookies, crayons, popcorn, power cords... you know, the usual. They also will play pretty rough with one another, almost like they are fighting, but usually without sounds, which lets you know they are just playing.

Between 8-16 weeks they are "big kids." They still play pretty rough sometimes, but the big marker for this age is they begin to show personality traits. This is usually when small quirks begin to show up and I feel inspired enough to name everyone.

Between 4-7 months I call them "teenagers." They hit their sexual maturation stage where they can have a bit of bluff and bravado at times. Boys and girls alike may have squabbles as they vie for who is dominant in the cage. Usually, everyone figures out their place by 9 months of age and things settle into a permanent social structure.

The age most people are well acquainted with is the happy time of 6m-18m when rats are generally adult, but not yet at the elderly stage. This is when your rat is the most fun and enjoyable. They have a well formed personality that you have become familiar with and are enjoying a normal amount of good health. This is the age of most rats you see in pictures and videos online - the fun rats. This stage of life can be very long if you take good care of your rat and keep it active and healthy.

Somewhere between 18m-2y your rat will enter their "senior citizen" or elderly phase of life. It is important that you keep an eye out for signs of aging in your rat as some rats may need a change in cage set up or diet as they get older. Elderly rats may develop tumors, arthritis/joint weakness, overgrown teeth and nails, poor grooming habits, and an increased risk of becoming ill. The list of aging signs is long, but in general rats just plain slow down and need a bit more love and support from their family to get by.

Even if your rat is elderly, they will still have a keen mind. It is important to engage with even senior citizen rats and help keep their life enriched. A rat who lived an active life will gain much from going places with you in a bonding pouch so they can still "stay active" while having less mobility. Rats that enjoyed snuggling will be even more eager for lap time.

A Day in the Life of Squeakin' Pups

