

Pet Rat Proposal Worksheet

How to convince your parents in three not-so-easy (but well worth it) steps

STEP ONE

Assess your ability to care for your own pet rats

Money, Time & Other Considerations ~

Money

Do you have the money to cover these costs? If not, will your parents be willing to cover these expenses?

If you need help finding the costs to some of the supplies you'll need, refer to your [Guide to Essential Pet Rat Supplies](#). The links in your guide have the costs of each item you need.

For veterinary care costs, find a local [vet who's familiar with and experienced with pet rats](#). Call their office and ask for the price of an exam for a pet rat. If you don't know someone who has rats and a good vet to recommend, use these [Online Directories](#) to find a vet in your area.

Another expense in veterinary care when you're just getting started could be [spaying or neutering](#), if applicable. When calling your prospective vet's office, ask how much a rat spay or neuter generally costs in addition to the cost of an exam.

For cleaning supplies, you can find information in [Cleaning Your Pet Rats' Cage](#).

First, figure out your startup costs:

Item	Initial Cost
Cage	
Food	
Toys	
Hideouts	
Hammocks	
Veterinary Care (initial exam plus spay or neuter if needed)	
Carrier for taking your rats to vet	
Cleaning Supplies	
Other	
Total Initial Cost	

Now figure out your monthly costs:

You'll probably need to buy a new bag of food every couple of months.

Toys, hideouts and hammocks might be purchased 2-3 times a year.

To estimate average monthly veterinary care costs, first calculate potential annual expenses. In one year you may have three exams along with the cost of medications and any needed surgery (such as a tumor removal) per rat. Divide this total by 12 to get your average monthly veterinary care cost. This would likely be the maximum amount you'd spend on veterinary care. You could actually end up spending much less. It's just good to be prepared in case there are health issues.

Item	Monthly Cost
Food	
Toys	
Hideouts	
Hammocks	
Veterinary Care	
Cleaning Supplies	
Other	
Total Monthly Cost	

Time

Do you have time available on a daily basis to play and visit with your rats as well as clean their cage?

Here's a sample of a student's weekly schedule during the school year:

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Playing AM	1 hr	30 min before school	30 min before school	30 min before school	30 min before school	30 min before school	1 hr
Playing PM	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr	1 hr
Cleaning	Clean & Disinfect Cage (1-2 hours depending on cage size)	Spot clean cage (15-30 min)	Spot clean cage (15-30 min)	Spot clean cage (15-30 min)	Spot clean cage (15-30 min)	Spot clean cage (15-30 min)	Spot clean cage (15-30 min)

Fill in your weekly schedule here:

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Playing AM							
Playing PM							
Cleaning							

Other Considerations

Where will you place your pet rats' cage?	
Who will take care of your rats when you go on vacation?	
How will you get to the vet?	
What level of experience do you have with pet rats? If you haven't spent much time with rats before, how will you gain experience before adopting?	
Anything else you'd like to consider, research or prepare before getting pet rats?	

STEP TWO

Overcome your parents' fears & concerns

Is it their tails? Or that you won't clean their cage? Or...?

Just what are your parents' objections to your having pet rats?

List Your Parents' Objections	How can you put your parents' minds at ease for each objection you've listed?

STEP THREE

Create your own very persuasive pet rat presentation

Besides the cute pictures and the live presentation (listed at the end), WOW your parents by spelling out the specifics of how you'll take care of your pet rats.

A checklist: Make sure to include the following in your proposal...

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cute photos of pet rats Besides the many adorable photos found on About Pet Rats , you'll also find lots from which to choose on Pinterest and Tumblr . A Google search brings up a ton of cute pet rat pics, too.
<input type="checkbox"/>	List each of your parents' objections and give information to address and overcome each objection. (See STEP TWO)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose a few facts about pet rats with which your parents may not be familiar. Some of these can be found on Why Rats? For information on pet rat tails, see Tail Tales .
<input type="checkbox"/>	What will you feed your pet rats? (Refer to your Guide to Essential Pet Rat Supplies as well as the sections in the Nutrition tab of About Pet Rats)
<input type="checkbox"/>	What kind of cage will you use for your pet rats? (Refer to your Guide to Essential Pet Rat Supplies as well as Choosing Your Pet Rats' Home on About Pet Rats)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Where will you place your pet rats' cage? (See STEP ONE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	What will you place inside your rats' cage? (Refer to your Guide to Essential Pet Rat Supplies as well as Interior Design for Pet Rat Homes on About Pet Rats)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Will you litter box train your rats?
<input type="checkbox"/>	What veterinarian your rats will see? - Show your parents you've researched veterinarians and already know who your rats will be seeing for their first checkup.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Who will take care of your rats when you're on vacation? (See STEP ONE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expenses - List how much everything will cost and discuss who will be covering these expenses (See STEP ONE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daily schedule for cleaning and playing with your rats. (See STEP ONE) Your parents need to know you're committed to keeping everything clean and neat. Besides letting them know <i>when</i> you'll be cleaning, let them know exactly <i>what</i> you'll be cleaning and include the products and tools you'll be using such as what detergents, disinfectants, scrub brushes, etc. (Refer to Cleaning Your Pet Rats' Cage)
<input type="checkbox"/>	To complete your proposal, a "live" presentation is extremely helpful. Do you have any friends who can bring their rats over for a quick visit with your parents? Or can you take your parents to a humane society, rescue organization, breeder or pet store where they can visit one on one with some rats?
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you'd like additional ideas for your pet rat proposal, take a look online at persuasive pet rat presentations others have made.