

Name _____ Date _____

Key Vocabulary	
suffer	experience something painful
hoarder	person who collects too many animals or things
companionship	friendship and closeness with someone
grooming	brushing and cleaning an animal's coat
guardian	someone who takes care of someone else
cruelty-free	not tested on animals

Rescued Rats Find New Home

Rats and humans have a lot in common. They giggle when tickled, fall in love, and risk their lives to save their families. Like humans—and all animals—rats can also feel pain and **suffer**, which is why PETA rescued this family of rats from a **hoarder**. Now, after being adopted, they are getting the love and care they deserve.



Melissa and Maizzie

Rats have unique personalities. Take Melissa and Maizzie, for example. They like to snuggle in their hammock together. In fact, rats need **companionship** or they will become lonely and stressed. Maizzie is shy but will approach someone she feels safe around when offered a blueberry.

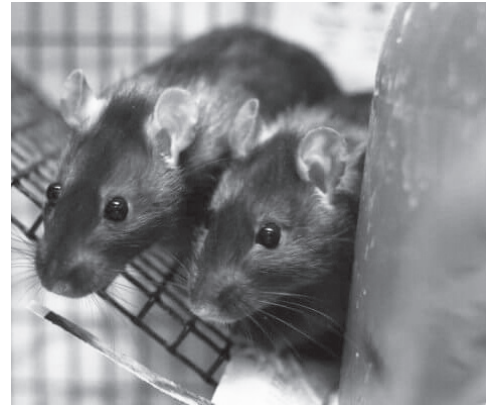
Rats are also very clean animals. Bianca and Bettina are also close friends and like to keep their soft fur shiny and clean by **grooming** each other throughout the day.

Not all rats look the same. Teddy, for example, somehow lost one of his ears, but that doesn't stop him from enjoying apple slices and gentle head scratches from his **guardian**. Sometimes he climbs on top of his plastic house to keep an eye out for more treats.

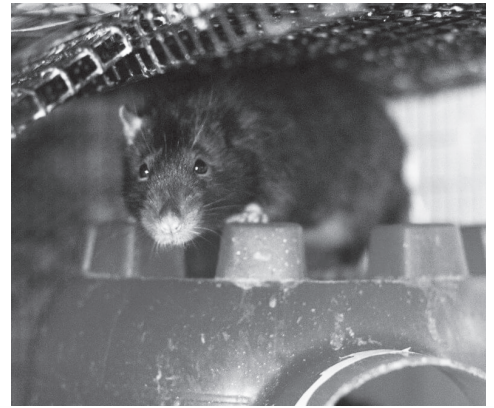
Many rats and other animals, like mice, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs, and cats, are used in cruel science experiments. They're forced to live in small cages, are experimented on, and don't get to play, cuddle, eat their favorite foods, or do anything else they enjoy.

People can help save these smart, curious, friendly animals by buying only **cruelty-free** products, which weren't tested on rats or any other animals—it will say that right on the label.

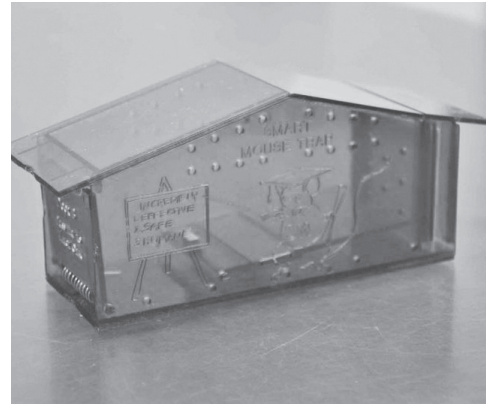
They can also choose humane traps if rats find their way into the house. If your family is ready to adopt a companion rat, be sure to find one at an animal shelter. Buying a rat from a breeder or pet store means that a rat in a shelter doesn't get a home, so don't do it. And consider adopting two rats—remember, they need companionship in order to be happy and healthy.



Bianca and Bettina



Teddy



A humane mouse or rat trap

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Comprehension Questions: Rescued Rats Find New Home

1. What are some things that rats and humans have in common?

2. What will happen to rats if they don't have companionship?

3. What else do you think rats need to be happy and healthy?

4. Do you think it's fair to use animals in experiments?

Explain your answer.
