

RAT, NORWAY

RANGE:

Found almost throughout the world.

HABITAT:

All terrestrial habitats including northern forest, tropical forest and savannas.

SIZE:

7-10 inches body length - tail lengths vary in size.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Wild: Maximum in wild one year.

Captivity: 2-4 years.

REPRODUCTION:

- Extremely prolific
- Constant breeding season
- Gestation period 21-23 days
- Litter size 6-12
- Puberty 50-65 days
- 5-10 litters a year

DIET:

Wild: Grains, fruit, garden vegetables and anything else they can find.

Zoo: Rodent chow, corn and apples.

BEHAVIOR:

- Nocturnal.
- Sociable living in colonies of varying size.
- Colonies are extremely well organized and have close social bonds to ensure both survival and security.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Have coarse fur, long tails, large ears and a pointed snout.
- Rats have extremely powerful teeth, with which they often gnaw through wooden planks to get at stores of food and they have even been known to bite holes in lead pipes.
- Can survive under water without breathing for up to three minutes.
- Albino strains of brown rats are bred for use in biological studies.
- These white rats have been extensively used for nutritional studies and in many other areas of scientific research.

STATUS:

Common

theZOO
LOUISVILLE

PHOTO
COMING
SOON

Order: **Rodentia**
Family: **Muridae**
Genus: **Rattus**
species: **norvegicus**