

Evergreen Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital

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Rattus norvegicus Quick Facts

Actual values may differ with strain of the rat

Physiologic	
Life span	2-3.5 yrs (record 4)
Adult male body weight:	450-520 g
Adult female body wt	250-300 g
body surface area cm ² :	10.5 (wt in grams) ² / ₃ power
rectal/body temp	25.8-37.5 degree C
Diploid number	42
food consumption	10 g/100 g body weight/day
water consumption	10-12 ml/100 g body weight/day
GI transit time	12-24 h
respiratory rate	70-115/min
tidal volume	0.6-2.0 ml
oxygen use	0.68-1.10 ml/g/hr
heart rate	250-450/min
blood vol	54-70 ml/kg
blood pressure:	84-134/50 mm Hg
Dental Arch	1/1 incisors; 3/3 molars
Incisors:	open-rooted (hypsodont)
Molars	closed, permanently rooted (brachyodont)
Anatomic note:	open inguinal canals
Reproductive	
male: Sire, Female:	
Dam	
Breeding onset:	65-110 days old
Cycle length	4-5 days
Gestation period	21-23 days (add 3-7 days if female is bred at postpartum estrus)
Postpartum estrus	fertile
Litter size	six to 12
Birth weight	5-6 g
Weaning age:	21 d
breeding duration (commercial)	7-10 litters (350-440 d)
Young production	4-5/month
Milk composition	13.0% fat 9.7% protein, 3.2 [^] lactose