



Name: This is Brendon

Species: He is a 'fancy rat' which is the domesticated species of *Rattus norvegicus* that is commonly kept as pets

Where from: He came from a pet rat breeder

What does he eat: He eats rat pellets along with small amounts of fruits, vegetables, noodles and even bugs as treats

Life span: Rats are short lived pets who when well cared for usually live 2-3 years

Husbandry for rats: Rats do require a lot of space and cages with lots of air flow. They do not do well in small tanks or bins due to their sensitive respiratory systems.

Difficulty level: Rats make extremely good pets as they are very social and actually seek attention from people, almost like a tiny little dog! They are fairly easy to keep but owners need to be prepared to seek veterinary care as they are prone to respiratory disease and tumors

Fun facts about rats: One thing that people don't know about rats is that they form bonds with one another and should never be owned as a single rat. They should always have cage mates to socialize with.



Name: Hashbrown

Kind of animal: Guinea Pig

Where from: Almost Home Humane Society

Diet: Free choice timothy hay, appropriately portioned Guinea Pig pellets with vitamin C, as guinea pigs can get sick without it, limited fresh greens and veggies once per day. He occasionally gets treats. Unlimited fresh water

Lifespan: 7 years

Husbandry Facts: Ready-made cages from pet stores are generally not big enough. Need to be housed in groups, as they are social animals. "Floor time" is an important part of exercise and enrichment. 'Piggies' should be kept away from other pets, due to their natural fear of larger animals- guinea pigs are prey animals.

Difficulty level: medium (cost of food & veterinary care, time commitment with floor time and cleaning up)

Myths: store-bought cages being big enough, and all guinea pigs have the same personality.

Truth: Guinea pigs have distinct personalities! Hashbrown prefers certain toys and enjoys agility training (he's very food motivated).



Names: Frenic (upright ears), Coraline (floppy ears)

Species: Domestic rabbits

Breed: Frenic (lionhead mix), Coraline (mini lop)

Where from: They were both found as strays!

Diet: Endless amount of grass hay, 1-2 tablespoons adult rabbit pellets, 1-2 cups of fresh leafy greens (mainly green leaf lettuce)

Lifespan: 8-12 years

Living arrangements: Frenic and Coraline have their own "bunny proof" bedroom to ensure they have a safe enclosure that is large enough for them to run around in when no one is home. They are both litter box trained.

Difficult level: Intermediate - advanced

Fun Facts: Frenic is very photogenic and will stop what he's doing to pose for the camera. Coraline has started picking up on this skill but hasn't quite mastered the art of modeling.

Myth: Rabbits are easy pets.

Fact: Rabbits require just as much care as a dog or cat. The cost of hay and litter can add up but those are two of the essential items to maintaining a happy healthy rabbit. Being a prey species, rabbits will instinctually try to hide signs of illness until they no longer can.