



AusRFS (NSW) Show Guidelines for Rats Version 1.2

General

All animals brought to the show, whether being entered or not, should be of good health and condition. There should be no signs of illness or parasite infestation. Animals should be at least 5 weeks old.

Class Entry Rules

Introductory

This class is limited to new exhibitors not having shown with AusRFS (NSW) before. It is a place to learn about showing and how to show (including what not to show). New exhibitors may enter 2 entries per show for 3 shows only.

Kittens

The kitten class is reserved for entries ranging from 6 to 10 weeks old only.

Junior Pet Class

The junior pet class is reserved for exhibitors aged 15 year and younger, with a limit of 2 entries per exhibitor.

Pet Class

The Pet Class is open to all exhibitors. There is a limit of 2 entries per exhibitor.

Standards Based Classes

The standards based classes are open to all exhibitors. There is no limit on the number of entries an exhibitor may enter in each class.

Unstandardised Class

This class is for the introduction of new varieties and the refinement of the standards to be used in future judging competitions. Entries into this class are not eligible for awards or points.

Use of Breeder Prefix

Breeder Prefix's are only to be attached to entries which are a result of a mating between your doe and a buck (either your own buck or someone else's). Class results are used to calculate Yearly "Best" awards and incorrectly attaching a Breeder's Prefix will skew the results unfairly. Entries with Breeders Prefixes may need to be backed up with Pedigree's and should be made available to an official on request.

Appeals and Clarification of Decisions

Appeals and Clarification requests are to be lodged with either the Show Secretary or a Steward within a timely fashion. Exhibitors are not to approach the Judges whilst they are in the process of judging.

Animal Entry Guidelines

Show Condition

Fancy Rats should appear happy and healthy. There should be no sign of illness, injury or parasites. Their breathing and movement should be normal. They should be clean and neat with no missing body parts. Their nails should be clean and trimmed, and their weight should be sleek, firm and slightly rounded, not being too fat or too thin.

Temperament

Fancy Rats should be alert, inquisitive, well handled and friendly. Does are allowed to be more active than bucks.



Conformation

Fancy Rats should be of good size, with does being long and racy in type, and bucks being of a bigger and stockier build. They should be arched over the loin and firm fleshed.

Head

The head should be straight and balanced. Does are to have a medium length head and blunt nose, bucks are to have a wider, shorter and more masculine head, also with a blunt nose.

Eyes

The eyes should be round, bold, prominent, clean and of good size.

Ears

The ears should be of good size, well formed and widely spaced with as few wrinkles as possible.

Tail

The tail should be cylindrical and as long as the body, thick at the base, and tapering to a fine point. It should be strong and firm, and not thin or bony.

Coat

The ears, feet and tail should be covered with fine hair. The coat should be appropriate for the coat type, with bucks having longer guard hairs and a harsher coat.

Teeth

They should have a set of two upper and two lower incisors, with none misshapen or missing. The rat should be able to close its mouth normally.

Faults

The following generic conditions will incur a loss of points at judging time. These are in addition to the standard specific faults for the class that the entry is being judged under.

- Rats of insufficient size, overweight or underweight
- Stained coat and dirty untrimmed nails
- Mis-markings, unevenness or variation in colour
- Kinked, thin or short tail
- Eyes spaced too close together, sunken, cloudy or dirty
- Ears too close together or nicked

Disqualifications

The following conditions are considered suitable grounds for disqualification from judging and are in addition to the standard specific disqualification criteria. Disqualification is at the discretion of the Judges, Stewards and Show Secretary, and may not necessarily be for a reason listed below.

- Nursing or pregnant does
- Obvious ill-health (e.g. noisy breathing)
- Intractability
- Lice, scabs or sores
- Dyed or trimmed hair
- Missing body parts
- Males should have two fully descended testicles