

RAT FANCIERS OF THE LAKES

Code of Ethics

Breeders

- I will work toward the betterment of the club to the best of my ability and encourage others to do likewise.
- I will attempt to promote a feeling of fellowship among my fellow members.
- I will keep my rats in appropriate caging, which allows for proper ventilation and cleaning, on healthy and appropriate bedding, and will clean these cages thoroughly as is necessary to maintain a healthy living environment.
- I will feed my rats healthy and appropriate food in sufficient amounts.
- I will seek appropriate veterinary care for all rats under my care.
- I will not needlessly kill or euthanize healthy animals.
- I will never give or sell rats to pet stores.
- I will obtain new pets from ethical and responsible sources, to encourage the ethical care of rats.
- I will not seek to breed my rats without research into genetics, husbandry, and budgeting, and without seeking a reputable mentor.
- I will lovingly handle my rats on a regular basis, and care for their mental and social health.
- I will not breed rats before they are physically mature and can be assessed by me as worthy of being bred.
- I am directly responsible for qualifying those who would own a rat of my breeding or that I am seeking to place. I will not sell to anyone who I am not comfortable with, nor will I sell at swap meets, auctions, pet stores or to individuals who raise or use feeder rats.
- I will not sell a rat that I know to be unhealthy or to have a temperament unsuitable for pet/breeder placement.
- When placing rats, I will employ an "Adoption Agreement" that will be signed by both parties and kept on record.
- I will not breed from animals with less than two full generations of pedigree. I will breed to the standards that the club upholds, to the best of my ability.
- All my rats will be registered with the North American Rat Registry (NARR).
- I will honestly maintain a public record of all litters bred, all deaths in the rattery and any health alerts within my rattery.
- Once a year I will conduct a diagnostic test performed by a competent veterinarian for the core pathogens, including but not limited to, mycoplasma, SDA, Sendai, and Parvoviruses. The rat to be tested must be weaned and have had constant exposure to the rattery for no less than fifteen days.
- As a member of the RFL, I am aware that I represent the club and the fancy. I understand that substantive violations of this Code of Ethics or actions consistently contrary to the best interests of the club and the fancy may result in expulsion from the club, according to our Bylaws.

By signing below I agree to abide by the RFL Code of Ethics and the Bylaws as they currently stand. I understand that violation of this Code of Ethics may result in disciplinary action by the club.

Print Name

Rattery

Signature

Date