



## General Guidelines for Selling Rats

The following guidelines are to safeguard the reputation of the fancy rat as a pet and the NFRS as a source of healthy, tractable rats.

### Rats eligible for sale

- Health and tractability of rats for sale are of paramount importance.
- No rats must be offered for sale as pets under the age of six weeks or over the age of three months.
- Pregnant rats should not be sold, except by agreement between buyer and seller. In the event of a member unwittingly selling a pregnant rat, the member should accept full responsibility for the litter or any expenses incurred, e.g. veterinary expenses.

### Offering rats for sale

- Rats for sale must be accompanied by details of the date of birth and the seller's name, address and telephone number in case of enquiries or complaint.
- The use of pedigree form is not appropriate as fancy rats are not registered. 'Family Tree' is the recommended description of a form giving genealogical details.
- It is against the Sales of Goods Act 1979 to make unfounded claims about rats. For example, a rat should not be described as show winning unless the particular rat being sold has won a show.
- It is a criminal offence under the Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973 to display exclusion clauses or disclaimers. Members selling rats under the auspices of the NFRS should be prepared to accept rats returned in the event of complaint for a period of up to fourteen days after the sale, or twenty three days in the case of pregnancy. A member of the Executive Committee can be approached to arbitrate in the event of a disagreement or dissatisfaction. The welfare of the rats should be a primary consideration.
- Rats should not be sold to a child under sixteen years of age unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- The Standards Officer will co-ordinate overseas sales to ensure the quality of exported stock and all enquiries should be addressed to her.
- The minimum price charged for each rat shall be at the current agreed rate (£7.00).

Further guidance for advertising rats at shows and exhibitions is available.