

This Code of Conduct is meant as a guideline for members, and is not meant to be regarded as a set of laws which are used to police our breeder members. The recommendations and practices set forth in this Code of Conduct are to be considered a model of good breeding practices, and should be followed as routine whenever possible.

It is understood that in extraordinary circumstances, it is acceptable for a member to take steps outside the Code of Conduct if sound judgment is used. It is also understood that some breeder members may put into practice even higher ideals in their breeding programs and should be encouraged and commended.

AusRFS (NSW) Inc recommends to all pet buyers, and Fancy Rat and Mouse owner members to thoroughly investigate any member from whom they are considering purchasing a Fancy Rat or Fancy Mouse, by asking all necessary questions concerning their policies and practices pertinent to the welfare of both, the Fancy Rat and/or Mouse and the purchaser. Always ask about the seller's return policy in the event the Fancy Rat and/or Fancy Mouse that you are buying turns out to be unsatisfactory. Membership of the AusRFS (NSW) Inc should not be relied upon solely to determine a breeder member's implementation of the Code of Conduct, and should not be considered an endorsement of the animals concerned.

AusRFS (NSW) Inc does not approve, condone, or endorse the behaviour of its members.

The responsibility of a breeder and rattery/mousery staff is as follows:

1. In the breeding of Fancy Rats and Fancy mice, a breeder will at all times, emphasise good health, stable temperament, and breed for appearance to meet the Fancy Rat and Fancy Mice Standard.
2. Agree to protect the Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice reputation by employing responsible personal, social and business practices.
3. A breeder will behave at all times in a respectful manner that will reflect positively on themselves, and their Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice. A breeder will view success as a concern secondary to the health and well-being of the Fancy Rats and Fancy Mice and to their relationship with others among the Fancy Rats and Fancy Mice community, particularly AusRFS (NSW) Inc.
4. A breeder will keep accurate records of all pedigrees and breedings that occur in their rattery/mousery, to the best of their ability.
5. A breeder will plan and implement a breeding program with the preservation and protection of the breed being foremost.

6. A breeder will breed discriminately, making sure that they are able to find good homes for all of their Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice.
7. A breeder will emphasise quality not quantity.
8. The breeding of Fancy Rats and Fancy Mice will be kept free from disease and genetic defects to the best of a breeder's and their veterinarian's ability.
9. A breeder may consult a qualified veterinarian or geneticist if an inherited problem is suspected. A breeder will report all findings with breeders who have purchased breeding stock from them, as well as the AusRFS (NSW) Inc, and all pet owners of animals concerned. The breeder shall also notify the breeder of the animal concerned if not bred by them.
10. A breeder will only breed from Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice when they are in good health and of good weight and condition.
11. It is strongly suggested that a female rat not be bred before 6 months of age. It is recommended to not breed a female too frequently and give ample time in between litters (minimum 3 months) for her to regain her weight and condition. It is recommended that does not be bred after the age of 15 months, and only bred at this age if having had previous litters. It is recommended to not over breed a male rat, so he is able to maintain a healthy weight and condition. It is recommended that males be a minimum of 12 months of age before being bred, to ensure beyond reasonable doubt that he is healthy, robust, relatively free of early onset tumours etc, and is of sound temperament.
12. It is suggested that the minimum age for breeding Fancy Mice doesn't be before 4 months, allowing for complete physical development. It is recommended that a minimum of two months be given between litters in order for the doe to regain optimum condition. It is recommended that female mice not be bred after the age of 12 months. It is recommended that male mice not be bred from before the age of four months, to allow for optimum physical maturity.
13. A breeder will provide proper care for the safe and healthy delivery of baby Fancy Rats (kittens) and Fancy Mice (pups), and will, whenever possible, be available to assist the birthing mother if necessary. A breeder may consult with a veterinarian at the first sign of difficulty.
14. A breeder will provide sufficient socialization for kittens/pups, as well as assess their individual temperament so they go into their new homes suited to that situation.
15. A breeder will provide a guide to the new owner that outlines how to care for their new rat or mouse, including housing and diet.
16. A breeder will represent the Fancy Rat / Mouse realistically, doing their best to dispel past myths propagated such as they are dirty, or they smell, or they always bite. Instead a breeder will describe the Fancy Rat / Mouse qualities in

an accurate manner, addressing unrealistic expectations with factual descriptions.

17. A breeder will not place for sale a Fancy Rat younger than 6 weeks of age, and recognise that 6 weeks or older is recommended. A breeder of Fancy Mice will not place for sale a Fancy Mouse younger than 6 weeks of age, and recognise that 6 weeks or older is recommended.
18. A breeder will maintain a high standard of health and care for all Fancy Rat and Fancy Mice, by providing adequate room for exercise and play. A breeder will provide clean and comfortable quarters with adequate bedding, litter, retreats, ventilation and lighting. A breeder will provide a balanced quality diet with clean water and litter. A breeder will give Fancy Rat and Fancy Mice daily care and affection, and veterinary care whenever needed.
19. A breeder will house Fancy Rats and Fancy Mice in a manner that minimises the risk of accidental breeding or aggressive behaviour between other Fancy Rats and Fancy Mice.
20. A breeder will not allow a Fancy Rat and/or Fancy Mouse to run loose outdoors and unprotected from the elements, parasites and other animals the Fancy Rat and Fancy Mouse might be exposed to.
21. A breeder will not sell any Fancy Rat or Fancy Mouse knowingly to a backyard breeder or feeder breeder, a breeder who exhibits lack of ethical treatment to their Fancy Rats and Fancy Mice or pet shops.
22. A breeder will conduct all sales in a professional manner designed to protect the health and welfare of the Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice.
23. A breeder will be solely responsible for all Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice sales transactions, leasing agreements and stud services.
24. A breeder will explain the difference between pet, show and breeder quality, before selling any Fancy Rat or Fancy Mouse.
25. A breeder will carefully evaluate any Fancy Rat or Fancy Mouse being considered as a breeder or a show/breeder, and discuss all qualities and traits with the potential owner prior to the sale. The breeder should disclose the pedigree upon request.
26. When selling a breeding Fancy Rat or Fancy Mice, a breeder will fully explain the pedigree, any inbreeding, and any out cross that they are aware of. It's preferable that a breeder will include a minimum of a three-generation pedigree.
27. A breeder understands that it is recommended that they have a minimum 3 generation pedigree on all of their breeding Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice, however where this is not available, the breeder supplies as much information as is available at the time, and will make sure the new owner is aware of this.

28. A breeder will be available to help all newly established breeders that they place any breeding Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice with, for mentoring, support and guidance.
29. A breeder will do everything within their power to aid in the safe re homing of any Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice of their breeding that is in need of rescue or placement.
30. Breeders will follow the guidelines set down by the University of Qld when culling Fancy Rats or Fancy Mice

http://www.uq.edu.au/research/integrity-compliance/files/animal/sops/aht/sop_aht_36_Euthanasia_of_Rats_or_Mice_Carbon_dioxide.pdf

http://www.uq.edu.au/research/integrity-compliance/files/animal/sops/aht/sop_aht_37_euthanasia_of_mice_neonates.pdf

31. All registered breeders will aim to adhere to this Code of Conduct as a member of AusRFS (NSW) Inc in good standing. They agree to encourage and support AusRFS (NSW) Inc and members in the administration and following of these Codes of Conduct and agree to abide by any arbitration or decision set forth by AusRFS (NSW) Inc Committee of Management if there is a breach of this Code of Conduct.