

NIRO Rat Chat 10/08/2008 Guest Speaker Staci of Capital City Rat Rescue <http://www.CapitalCityRatRescue.com>

[20:40] <@OdysseyDesign> Welcome to NIRO's Rat Chat. Chats are held here in #RatWise every Wednesday evening. If you wish to be reminded by email each week about Rat Chat please email me at OdysseyDesignRattery@yahoo.com and I will add you to the list.

[20:41] <@OdysseyDesign> Northern Illinois Rat Organization's website is located at
[20:41] <@OdysseyDesign> <http://www.NIRO-USA.org> Check the site out often as there will be many exciting changes during the next several months that you do not want to miss! Don't forget to join the forum and say hello.

[20:41] <@OdysseyDesign> Our special guest tonight is Staci aka Oldgal of Capital City Rat Rescue <http://www.CapitalCityRatRescue.com>. The purpose of tonight's chat is to get a peek inside of a rat rescue and to get to know Staci. Please be polite and keep all questions directed at Staci and the topic about her rescue. Enjoy yourselves!

[20:41] <Staci> ☐04Hey everyone! Thanks for coming to chat with me tonight!

[20:41] * arumberg (ewcflash@ewc-e33e4643.blo.ptd.net) has joined #RatWise

[20:42] <@OdysseyDesign> hi arumberg

[20:42] <arumberg> hello

[20:42] <@OdysseyDesign> welcome Staci!

[20:42] <Staci> ☐04I have been rescuing rats for about 4 to 5 years now. Mostly just taking in rats off of Craig's List or from word of mouth. All of those rats were my pets that I kept and loved dearly. There was a breeder in town who also did some rescue work plus another rescue about 60 miles away in another state but sits right on the boarder. I really didn't know much about them but I quickly learned that neither was reputable. Then in the sum

[20:42] * Retrieving #RatWise modes...

[20:42] * OdysseyDesign sets mode: +s

[20:43] <Staci> ☐04But I wanted to make sure I did it right. I wanted to make sure it would be ok to run a rescue out of my home. I didn't want some peeved off neighbor to turn me in to animal control and have them raid my house and confiscate all of my animals and fine me big dollars.

[20:44] <TexasRats> How would that be legal for them to do that, Staci?

[20:44] <Staci> ☐04Well depending on local laws in some cities and states it is illegal to run certain types of businesses out of homes and there are some states that have limitations on the number of animals you can have in your home.

[20:44] <Staci> ☐04So I started to call around. I first called the state zoning board and made sure that I was zoned to run a rescue out of my home. The said no problem. I then called the US dept of Ag to make sure it was ok with them as well and they too said go for it. I contacted the Secretary of State and filed my articles of incorporation with them and made it official that I am Capital City Rat Rescue Inc. And finally I contacted my local City zo

[20:45] <TexasRats> Wow. That is a lot of prep-work.

[20:45] * Epilogue (ewcflash@ewc-b79edab4.ptld.qwest.net) has joined #RatWise

[20:45] <Staci> ☐04I feel it is the only right way to do it and to start a business which technically is what a rescue is. A not for profit business.

[20:46] <@OdysseyDesign> hi Epilogue
[20:46] <Epilogue> Evening.
[20:46] <Staci> ☐04I am a bit different then most of the well-known rescues such as Kimâ€™s Ark, Wee Companions, or Mainly Rat Rescue as I am a one-woman operation. I do everything from my home. I donâ€™t have foster homes. I donâ€™t have volunteers to medicate or clean cages. I donâ€™t have other people who can run rats to vet appointments and such. What I do have are amazing friends. My friends do help me out a lot with transporting adoptions or sur
[20:47] <Staci> ☐04Because I am a small rescue I have to know my limitations and can only help so many rats at any one time. I used to think that number was 10 until this last spring when I had two rescue mommas have back to back litters on me and thus my numbers were somewhere up in the 50 range. Amazingly we made it through and survived.
[20:48] * TexasRats (ewcflash@FC03F0.3769D5.F27D49.948B7D) Quit (Connection closed☐)
[20:48] <cozyrat> ☐06(Staci---some of you messages are getting cut off midsentence)
[20:48] <Staci> ☐04Hmm they are all there for me?
[20:48] <Staci> ☐04Anyone else getting cut off?
[20:48] * TEK (ewcflash@ewc-1e01d6ca.pa.comcast.net) has joined #RatWise
[20:49] <arumberg> I am also.
[20:49] <@OdysseyDesign> hey Dan
[20:49] <cozyrat> ☐06the last one was fine, the one before cut off in what I assume was the word surrender
[20:49] <Epilogue> Yes.
[20:49] <Oiler> ☐05☐ me 2☐☐
[20:49] <cozyrat> ☐06maybe just make the entries shorter
[20:49] <Staci> ☐04Ok...reposting...
[20:50] <Staci> ☐04I am a bit different then most of the well-known rescues such as Kimâ€™s Ark, Wee Companions, or Mainly Rat Rescue as I am a one-woman operation. I do everything from my home. I donâ€™t have foster homes.
[20:50] * ChanServ sets mode: +o TEK
[20:50] <Staci> ☐04I donâ€™t have volunteers to medicate or clean cages. I donâ€™t have other people who can run rats to vet appointments and such. What I do have are amazing friends. My friends do help me out a lot with transporting adoptions or surrenders when I need help.
[20:51] <Staci> ☐04My friends donate a lot of supplies to the rescue. And my friends donate a lot of mental support when I am about to scream and kill people!
[20:51] <Oiler> ☐05☐ LOL☐☐
[20:51] <Staci> ☐04Because I am a small rescue I have to know my limitations and can only help so many rats at any one time.
[20:51] <cozyrat> DISCLAIMER! Staci is not mentally unbalanced!
[20:51] <Staci> ☐04Thank you Becca
[20:51] <Staci> ☐04I used to think that number was 10 until this last spring when I had two rescue mommas have back to back litters on me and thus my numbers were somewhere up in the 50 range. Amazingly we made it through and survived.
[20:51] <@OdysseyDesign> hehe

[20:51] <cozyrat> lol, you're welcome

[20:52] <Staci> ☐04Currently tonight sitting here I have 8 ratties in the rescue which is the lowest number I have had in a very long time.

[20:52] <TheChicagoCrew> yes that was quite amazing that you got them all placed this past spring

[20:53] <cozyrat> they were all too cute for their own good anyway

[20:53] <Staci> ☐04I still have two left from one of the litter and they are a tad on the naughty side and need a special owner.

[20:53] <Staci> ☐04But they are cute as heck...too cute for their own good.

[20:54] <Staci> ☐04I have had to learn a few hard lessons through all of this and one of the biggest lessons I have had to learn along the way is to trust my gut. There is a reason that we have womenâ€™s intuition and so use it.

[20:54] <TheChicagoCrew> YES

[20:54] <Staci> ☐04One story in particular that stands out still haunts me to this day. I received a call from a woman in a town about 45 miles from me. She wanted to get a pair of rats for her daughter for her 14th birthday.

[20:54] <@OdysseyDesign> no offence to the males in the room LOL

[20:54] <Staci> ☐04Her daughter had been begging her for them for a long time and she saw my flyer at a vet clinic advertising babies. I talked to her for a very long time and through several different phone conversations she sounded like the perfect candidate.

[20:55] <Staci> ☐04Lots of research, large cage, good bedding, good food, etc. Then things started going down hill. She couldnâ€™t meet up with me to pick them up but her daughter would be with her father (divorced couple) near me one night of the week.

[20:55] <Staci> ☐04Could he bring her by and let her pick out the rats that she wanted to adopt. Oh sure that sounds good. I warned the woman that when you first adopt from me be prepared to sit with me for an hour or more while I chat and go over my adoption packet.

[20:55] <Staci> ☐04I like to educate a bit before I send people out the door. She understood and said that shouldnâ€™t be a problem for her daughter. The daughter and father cannot find my place. They are lost and it was now over an hour later than their appointment time.

[20:56] <Staci> ☐04I had to actually go find them and lead them back to my house. The father is screaming at his daughter in the background while I am on the phone with her. They finally get to my house and the father is yelling at her while she gets out of the car to hurry it up.

[20:56] <Staci> ☐04She gets inside and picks out her rats and sits and listens while I tell her some things. The dad is blaring his horn outside. Finally he comes to the door and asks what is taking so long and I tell him just a couple more minutes.

[20:57] <Staci> ☐04As the daughter is walking out the door with her two new rats in a box (she forgot the travel cage) she asks if she can keep them in the box over night as she is going to go spend the night at her friends house â€|.WHAT â€| noâ€|They need to go in a cage.

[20:57] * Scubbs_rfc (ewcflash@ewc-34694627.try.wideopenwest.com) has joined #RatWise

[20:57] * Scubbs_rfc is now known as Scubbs

[20:57] <Staci> □04They will chew out of the box. She says fine she will take them home first. It was at that point that my gut reactions kicked in and said rip those rats out of her hands and send her out the door.

[20:57] <Oiler> □05□Hey Scubbs!□□

[20:57] * Blackthorn_rfc (ewcflash@2052AD.219380.AB79BF.133531) has joined #RatWise

[20:57] <Scubbs> Hello all :)

[20:57] <@TEK> □Hey there

[20:57] <Blackthorn_rfc> allo

[20:58] <Staci> □04I am contacting the mom every day from the time they adopt trying to get updates. But she wonâ€™t return my calls or answer my e-mails. About a month later I get an e-mail, which I saved and will share with you all.

[20:58] <Staci> □04Hey girls! Welcome

[20:58] <Scubbs> I can never be on time for chat for some reason :P

[20:58] <@OdysseyDesign> hey Kaia

[20:58] <Staci> □04Hello, I don't know if you remember or not but my daughter got two of your little female rats last fall. I thought I should tell you our family members started getting sick and we all kept passing it off as the flu, my nieces family and ours,

[20:58] <@OdysseyDesign> hiya Chelsey

[20:58] <Scubbs> Hey Dee, how's the pen? :)

[20:59] <Staci> □04well my new granddaughter was born November 9th and 10 days ago she got sick so we took her to the doctor, thinking her fever was just an ear infection or something, and they did several tests and after a long process they found out she got salmonella poisoning

[20:59] <Staci> □04and it is a very rare form from rats, snakes and a few other animals they are born with it. Her blood work, urine etc got sent to the state lab to study and find out what antibiotic would kill it and they started asking us questions because this form comes from rats, snakes, etc.

[20:59] <TheChicagoCrew> Hi Scubbs, Blackthorn_rfc

[20:59] <Staci> □04The only thing we had was these rats and it just so happened they died the day after my grand baby was diagnosed, ours not my nieces, so they were taken for testing and the strain my grand baby and all of us had was from them.

[21:00] <TheChicagoCrew> Wow

[21:00] <Oiler> □05□That ir weird

[21:00] <Oiler> □05□is*

[21:00] <@OdysseyDesign> oh wow (love it Chelsey! dont know how i lived without one to begin with)

[21:00] <Scubbs> Good lord.

[21:00] <Staci> □04My daughter was very thorough with cage cleaning and taking care of them, but somehow probably through improper hand washing and handling of the baby my granddaughter got this. She should be fine but it was very scary and she will be tested again tomorrow to make sure it is all gone.

[21:01] <Staci> □04I just wanted to let you know to be careful about giving them to anyone with infants or people who are elderly or have a low immune system because this could really hurt someone because it causes flu like symptoms and with winter being here no one really would think it anything different.

[21:01] <mamarat2> geeez□
[21:01] <Staci> □04It was only because we have an excellent pediatrician that we found out. Please when giving out your information sheets express how important proper minute hand washing is important after handling their cages or the rats themselves and anything they may come in contact with.
[21:01] <Staci> □04After getting this e-mail I was livid. I called up my general doctor and began asking him questions. He had never heard of rats carrying Salmonella and thought it sounded off.
[21:02] <Staci> □04I then called my vet and he said NO rats do not carry salmonella but he had seen rats come in with Salmonella who had gotten in from humans who had not washed their hands before handling the rats.
[21:02] <Staci> □04Rats catch Salmonella from humans not the other way around. After talking with a few other rat experts we all concurred. These people killed my babies. I knew I should have taken them back before they walked out the door.
[21:02] <Staci> □04These days I have no problems telling people no
[21:02] <Scubbs> Oh no :(What a terrible situation.
[21:02] <Scubbs> Did you reply back telling her what you found out?
[21:03] <Oiler> □05□'It just so happened they died the same day'
[21:03] <Staci> □04I did reply to her with the information that I was provided. She then got very nasty with me and threatened to sue me for her grand babies medical bills for calling her pediatrician a liar
[21:03] <Oiler> □05□Doubt it.
[21:03] <Staci> □04I left it at that.
[21:03] <@OdysseyDesign> wow
[21:04] <Scubbs> I would have too. Sounds like she was bitter over it all and just wanted something to blame.
[21:04] <Oiler> □05□That wasnt directed at you Staci
[21:04] <Staci> □04Oh I know
[21:04] <Oiler> □05□directed*
[21:04] <Staci> □04So other than that I guess I open it up to you all. What would you like to know about running a rescue or about CRR
[21:05] <Staci> □04I could sit and ramble all day long cuz lord knows I can talk but I don't know what you all would find fascinating and what would be boring to you.
[21:05] <@OdysseyDesign> im still stumbling over the story! sheesh
[21:05] * cozyrat32 (ewcflash@ewc-22a83422.ip.windstream.net) has joined #RatWise
[21:05] <@OdysseyDesign> wb Becca
[21:06] <cozyrat32> □06sorry, was having some trouble with the chat thing
[21:06] <Blackthorn_rfc> did i miss much before i came in?
[21:06] <cozyrat32> □06that's crazy Staci, never heard that one
[21:06] <Staci> □04Um no not too much.
[21:07] <Staci> □04Basically told how I started the rescue and why I started the rescue
[21:07] * cozyrat (ewcflash@ewc-22a83422.ip.windstream.net) Quit (Ping timeout: 121 seconds□)
[21:07] <@OdysseyDesign> not sure if I missed it. You said you do not have foster homes, how about qt homes?
[21:07] <cozyrat32> □06the real cozyrat is still here

[21:08] <@OdysseyDesign> Becca type /nick cozyrat
[21:08] <Staci> ☐04I am fortunate enough that I have a school that we live in. I have two separate air spaces.
[21:08] <cozyrat32> ☐06it looks like it timeed my old name out
[21:08] * cozyrat32 is now known as cozyrat
[21:08] <cozyrat> ☐06oh there
[21:08] <Oiler> ☐05☐Or you could change nickname
[21:08] <Oiler> ☐05☐click*
[21:08] <Staci> ☐04That was one of the best things to happen to the rescue this past year.☐
[21:09] <cozyrat> ☐06so lucky
[21:09] <@OdysseyDesign> oh very nice
[21:09] <Staci> ☐04We purchased an old elementary school which we are renovating into our home.
[21:09] <Staci> ☐04I am designing my home around the rescue.
[21:09] <Oiler> ☐05☐really?
[21:09] <cozyrat> ☐06so, the rats home
[21:09] <Staci> ☐04Uh ya! LOL
[21:09] <@OdysseyDesign> Oiler, she has a thread in the random chatter section of goose with pictures
[21:09] <@OdysseyDesign> should check it out
[21:10] <Staci> ☐04I need to update that thread too. We haven't done much inside but our building is starting to go up.
[21:10] <@OdysseyDesign> I was just about to point that out LOL
[21:10] <cozyrat> ☐06Staci, maybe you could tell a little about how you screen potential adopters and surrenders
[21:10] <Staci> ☐04Well that is an ever evolving process!
[21:10] <Oiler> ☐05☐Im in random chatter now too.
[21:10] <cozyrat> ☐06I think that's something everyone could benefit from since we can't find people out by sniffing their butts
[21:11] <Staci> ☐04Before anyone can be considered for adoption I ask them to fill out my pre adoption questionnaire which is on my web site.
[21:11] <Oiler> ☐05☐Anyone know the title?
[21:11] <cozyrat> ☐06it is an ever evoloving process, but you had to start somewhere
[21:11] <Staci> ☐04That questionnaire started out as a short list of questions which every few months I come up with a new one to add.
[21:12] <@OdysseyDesign> love the new website look btw!
[21:12] <Staci> ☐04Do a search on goose for Converted Building
[21:12] <Staci> ☐04it should come up.
[21:12] <Staci> ☐04Thank you. That was recently revamped too!
[21:12] <Staci> ☐04Still in progress.
[21:12] <Staci> ☐04So after I get a questionnaire back I look it over carefully.
[21:12] <cozyrat> ☐06my baby Annabel is in happy tails :)
[21:13] <Staci> ☐04I pick out some things that I want more details about and e mail them back with some interview type questions and make some of them essay type open ended questions.

[21:13] <@OdysseyDesign> I see you ask for landlord info...do you go as far as to call and make sure or see a copy of their lease?

[21:13] <Staci> ☐04If I like what i see that I will give them a call and have a few conversations on the phone with them.

[21:13] <Staci> ☐04I do not ask to see the lease but I definately DO call the landlord and ask them in person if this person can have pets.

[21:14] <Staci> ☐04I have not had anyone decieve me yet as most places have been complexes with management teams

[21:14] <cozyrat> ☐06I know it's a hard call for you Staci when you have a wonderful owner lined up who's landlord is fine with a hamster but hears the word rat and freaks out

[21:14] <Oiler> ☐05☐I had to type schoolhouse but I got it!

[21:15] <Staci> ☐04So far I have not had too many cases where the landlord says no. Typically they want to clarify with me how many I am adopting to them and that they are the same sex.

[21:15] <Staci> ☐04After the interview process depending on the vibe they are sending out to me I may or may not do a home inspection.

[21:16] <Staci> ☐04From there I work with them to pick out the rats that are best suited for them and their situation. I no longer let people come into my home to adopt.

[21:16] <arumberg> ☐02At least you will adopt out to people who rent. I've come across a lot of other types of rescues who won't even consiter adopting to renters.

[21:16] <Staci> ☐04Partly because I have now moved clear out to the boon docks.

[21:16] <mamarat2> ok all the foot is complaining its time to go to bed

[21:17] <cozyrat> ☐06have a good night, Jen!

[21:17] <Staci> ☐04Night Jenn thanks for coming

[21:17] <cozyrat> ☐06take care of that foot!

[21:17] <mamarat2> yah the foot sucks, g'night all

[21:17] * mamarat2 (ewcflash@ewc-197ce45e.md.comcast.net) has left #RatWise

[21:17] <Oiler> ☐05☐bye

[21:18] <Staci> ☐04Surrenders are a bit diffeent....I really don't ask too many questions and just get them the heck out of there.

[21:18] <cozyrat> ☐06sometimes Staci keeps rats a secret from people she knows would be a perfect match for them because that person already has too many rats☐

[21:18] <Staci> ☐04LOL...Um ya....

[21:18] <cozyrat> ☐06Ahem...Annabel....

[21:18] <Staci> ☐04Becca would be that person.

[21:18] <cozyrat> ☐06I got her anyway

[21:18] <Staci> ☐04I find that when I ask too many questions to surrenders it scares them off and they won't bring them to me.

[21:18] <@OdysseyDesign> oh a successful ratnapping?

[21:19] <Staci> ☐04I do have a very strict policy that I won't "rescue" from petstores. I won't rescue from herp people who are breeding for food.

[21:19] <cozyrat> ☐06actually, I heard about the rat from another person and told staci, send me pics! then, send her over!

[21:19] <Staci> ☐04I won't rescue from Back yard breeders who are just too crowded.

[21:20] <cozyrat> ☐06how about someone who has already surrendered to you already? weren't there some who just kept coming up with more for you to take?

[21:20] <cozyrat> □06I guess those were backyard breeders
[21:20] <Staci> □04I also won't pull from our local shelter as I feel they do a pretty good job with their small critters and they get adopted quickly.
[21:20] <Oiler> □05□I was gonna ask that
[21:20] <Oiler> □05□Like someone on craigslist who constantly has rats
[21:20] <Staci> □04I have had a couple of situations like that
[21:21] <Staci> □04First one was a girl who used to breed but assured me and promised me she was going to focus on her mice and knew she shouldnt breed rats.
[21:21] <Staci> □04I took in three rats from her.
[21:21] <Staci> □04about a year later I find her advertising on CL that she is breeding them again and she is looking to find home.s
[21:21] * menagerie (menagerie@ewc-99254dd0.sndg02.sbcglobal.net) has joined #RatWise
[21:22] <@OdysseyDesign> hiya menagerie
[21:22] <Staci> □04She is also stating that all males will be neutered.
[21:22] <Staci> □04Wow how can she afford that I wonder
[21:22] <menagerie> hi
[21:22] <menagerie> who is neutering all their males?
[21:22] <Staci> □04So I go check out her web site and she admits on her site that she is neutering the males at home herself and gives instructions on how to do it.
[21:22] <Staci> □04A BYB
[21:22] <Oiler> □05□OMG!!
[21:22] <Scubbs> holy crap
[21:23] <Oiler> □05□what is her website?
[21:23] <Staci> □04I immediately tuned her in to local authorities and they shut her down and confiscate all of her animals.
[21:23] * Dearpie (Dearpie@ewc-97af82cb.ph.cox.net) has joined #RatWise
[21:23] <Dearpie> howdy
[21:23] <Blackthorn_rfc> sick.
[21:23] <Oiler> □05□oh ok
[21:23] <@OdysseyDesign> hi Dearpie
[21:23] <Oiler> □05□Hello DP
[21:24] <Staci> □04The other one is a girl who keeps taking rats in from BYBs off of freecycle groups and CL and then calling me and begging me to take them in. She is the last person who should have any animals in her care
[21:24] <Staci> □04I took rats in from her one time and went to her home. It was sooooo bad smelling in the home
[21:24] <menagerie> We get that all the time
[21:24] <TheChicagoCrew> Hey Dearpie! :)
[21:24] * menagerie licks TCC
[21:24] <TheChicagoCrew> Hey mean! didn't see ya ;)
[21:24] <Staci> □04There were clothes and dirt everywhere
[21:25] <Staci> □04the animals were everywhere
[21:25] <Staci> □04fish tanks were so cloudy you couldn't see the fish in them.
[21:25] <Staci> □04it was very bad.
[21:25] <cozyrat> □06yuck

[21:25] <Staci> □04I finally had to tell her to stop...I can't do it any more.

[21:25] <TheChicagoCrew> Wow that is disgusting

[21:26] <Staci> □04So yes I do have to turn away surrenders at times and it is very very heart breaking to do it but logically and realistically it has to be done or the cycle will never be broken

[21:26] <Staci> □04When someone adopts from me as I mentioned before I like to spend some time with them educating them.

[21:26] <Staci> □04Before I would try to do all of that in one session the day they adopted.

[21:27] <Staci> □04Now I have started to do it over a few days of communication□

[21:27] <Staci> □04It seems to work better.

[21:27] <@OdysseyDesign> do you require an adoption contract? if so, what type of things do you require?

[21:27] <Staci> □04Most definately. I have a two page contract.

[21:27] <@OdysseyDesign> require is my new favorite word..sheesh

[21:28] <cozyrat> □06it's a good word

[21:28] <Staci> □04It has some of the basic stuff in it.

[21:28] <Staci> □04I promise to take care of said animal and feed it and water it and such□

[21:28] <Staci> □04But it also has verbiage in it regarding accidental breeding.

[21:29] <cozyrat> □06and you're right to take the rat (s) back

[21:29] <cozyrat> □06which you had to do with Mischief and Fez, right?

[21:29] <Staci> □04I have a no breeding allowed policy and if an accidental litter occurs then those babies become the property of CCR and the adopter must immediately inform CCR of said opps breeding

[21:30] <Staci> □04I have had this happen once so far.

[21:30] <Staci> □04And the adopter did not inform me of the opps litter.

[21:30] <Staci> □04She began adverstising them on Goose for adoption

[21:30] <Staci> □04She felt that just because the rat she adopted from me was a male that I had no rights to the babies.

[21:30] <Staci> □04My contract says Irregardless of sex....those babies become my property

[21:30] <Staci> □04perperty

[21:30] <Staci> □04Property

[21:30] <Staci> □04wow

[21:30] <Staci> □04LOL

[21:31] <@OdysseyDesign> haha its catchy..been having that problem all night

[21:31] <Staci> □04We eventually worked it out and she agreed to work with me one on one and let me screen ever single adopter and approve everyone.

[21:31] <@OdysseyDesign> how much difficulty do you have enforcing your contract?

[21:31] <Staci> □04She also had them sign my contracts as well.

[21:32] <Staci> □04Thankfully I have not had to inforce it too strictly just yet.

[21:32] <cozyrat> □06nice

[21:32] <Staci> □04The other one in my contract is that no matter what the rats must come back to me if it does not work out.

[21:32] <Staci> □04Even if it is 5 years down the road.

[21:32] <Staci> □04This one I have had to enforce several times.

[21:32] <Staci> □04I catch these people trying to rehome their rats on rat sites, CL, Freecycle groups etc

[21:33] <Oiler> □05□How?

[21:33] <menagerie> We also have an adoption contract. Realistically, it would cost a lot in attorney fees to enforce

[21:33] <Staci> □04Typically all I have to do is call them out on it and gently remind them that they signed a contract and they act like they forgot and bring them back to me.

[21:33] <Staci> □04Exactly Mean

[21:34] <Oiler> □05□How have you found them?

[21:34] <Staci> □04The owners or the rats?

[21:34] <Staci> □04The owners are typically advertising the rats for rehome on ads online and I will recognize the rat from its picture or from its name.

[21:35] * Scubbs (ewcflash@ewc-34694627.try.wideopenwest.com) Quit (Connection closed□)

[21:35] <Oiler> □05□Oh, ok

[21:35] <Staci> □04Or in some cases the way they type...One particular person always misspelled this one word so I knew it was them.

[21:35] <Oiler> □05□I dont see why people wouldnt want to send updates of their rats, I love to brag on my girls

[21:35] <@OdysseyDesign> You mentioned that you sometimes do home inspections, what do you look for in a persons home?

[21:36] <Staci> □04Cleanliness, what condition are their other animals in (if they have any). What condition are their children in. Where is the cage in the home.

[21:37] <Staci> □04what is the energy level in the home

[21:37] <Staci> □04What is the noise level in the home

[21:37] <Staci> □04What safe places have them set up for the rats to play in

[21:38] <arumberg> □02If someone gives you a pregnant rat to raise the babies, will you give the mother back to the previous owner after the babies are grown, or how does that work exactly?

[21:38] <Staci> □04It depends on the situation and the person.

[21:38] <Staci> □04Typically I am going to say no. But if the person has a really good reason for the pregnancy and has rectified the situation to prevent this from ever happening again and is truly a good rat owner then probably.

[21:39] <cozyrat> □06family dynamics

[21:40] <cozyrat> □06whoops

[21:40] <cozyrat> □06keep forgetting to scroll down

[21:40] <Staci> □04I have heard of some female rats doing some pretty unbelievable things to get to males. But see I typically won't adopt rats to a mixed sex home unless I know you and know you are capable of handling that situation responsibly.

[21:40] <Staci> □04I am very very lucky to have a vet who will neuter rats for a very good price.

[21:41] <Staci> □04However, I am not at a point that I can afford to have every single male neutered that comes through the rescue as I would love to do.

[21:41] <Staci> □04So I do always offer that option and will insist on it if you want mixed sex colonies and I don't know who you are.

[21:41] <Staci> □04I have a vet fund saved up and set aside but I feel I need to keep that for true medical issues that crop up.

[21:42] <menagerie> do you charge extra for spayed or neutered animals?

[21:42] <Staci> □04I ask for the adopter to pay the cost of the neuter.

[21:43] <Staci> □04I have not found a vet here who will do a spay for a reasonable fee. Nothing under \$300 any way.

[21:43] <@OdysseyDesign> Do you find that the general public is easy to educate and/or accepting of rats?

[21:43] <cozyrat> □06it's so resonable. it's cheaper to adopt a neutered rat from Staci than to get a rat and have it neutered myself

[21:43] <Staci> □04Ya my vet charges me \$40 for a neuter....Any other vet is \$170

[21:44] <Staci> □04Honestly Dee I have only been doing the rescue for 2 years and have been so focused on getting things set up and figuring out how to procedurally do things that I have not had a lot of time to focus on educating.

[21:44] <Staci> □04That is actually a goal for this upcoming year

[21:45] <Staci> □04I want to start to get out in the public more

[21:45] <Staci> □04Start to join some animal fairs and such

[21:45] <cozyrat> □06I'd say Nebraska is a lot more rat-friendly than you'd expect it to be, though

[21:45] <Staci> □04Oh heck ya.

[21:45] <cozyrat> □06well, we have the Xtreme Rat Challenge for one thing

[21:45] <Staci> □04I was so amazed at how many rat people I have meet in the last 2 years

[21:46] <Staci> □04And how many new rat people I meet every week.

[21:46] <Staci> □04CCRR is actually kind of at a cross roads right now and feeling some growing pains.

[21:46] <Staci> □04I have a huge delima. If I go out and start to educate that means my name gets out more.

[21:47] <Staci> □04Which means more surrenders and more rats coming in as well as more adopters to screen.

[21:47] <Staci> □04Since I do this myself I just don't have the ability to take on much more then I already do.

[21:47] <Staci> □04I have started to work out the details about forming a "real" board of directors.

[21:47] <menagerie> How many rats do you typically have?

[21:47] <Oiler> □05□I think it was 10

[21:48] <Staci> □04I average anywhere from as little as 5 on up to 50 depending on the situation.

[21:48] <Staci> □04I started out with 10 as my number but now I feel am ok with 25

[21:48] <menagerie> sorry, I missed the first hour because I don't get off work until 5 and had to go to the grocery store for fresh stuff for the hordes here

[21:48] <@OdysseyDesign> I cant imagine 50

[21:48] <Staci> □04Plus I have my personal rats which righ now I have 10

[21:49] <Staci> □04At one point my personal rats were 16

[21:49] <Staci> □04That is another hard lesson and I encourage anyone. If you plan to rescue don't have a large number of personal rats.

[21:49] <Oiler> □05□Are your personal and rescues housed seperatly
[21:49] <Oiler> □05□?
[21:49] <@OdysseyDesign> How do you deal when your over your comfort level with rat numbers?
[21:49] <Oiler> □05□Like different rooms
[21:49] <@OdysseyDesign> you're
[21:50] <Staci> □04I just push through like a mad woman....And then start advertising like mad to find home.s
[21:50] <Staci> □04I pretty much spend my life cleaning cages and socializing when I have that many.
[21:50] <Staci> □04It really truly is very hard to do and I don't like to do it very often.
[21:50] <Staci> □04And honestly I won't ever do it again unless it is a very bad situation.
[21:51] <Staci> □04I had no idea that was what I was doing when I took on the two females that I did. I agreed that I would take on one female who had a litter. Shortly after she was here she started showing.
[21:51] <Staci> □04Then I agreed to take on another momma with a litter and when I went to pick her up from the surrender they had stuck daddy in with them cuz well he just looked so lonely.
[21:52] <Staci> □04Woo Hoo a second litter so I ended up with 4 litters in a very short time.
[21:52] <Staci> □04But honestly litters are easier to adopt out then adult rats.
[21:52] <Staci> □04Everyone wants the cute adorable littel rats
[21:52] <Staci> □04No one wants the big foofy males I have sitting here right now.
[21:53] <Staci> □04Even though they are sweet as sin
[21:53] * @OdysseyDesign LOVES big foofy males
[21:53] <menagerie> what happens if you can't find them homes?
[21:53] <Staci> □04They stay here as long as it takes
[21:53] <@OdysseyDesign> thats why her personal rats went from 10 to 16! lol
[21:53] <Oiler> □05□Is there a point where they become ets?
[21:53] <cozyrat> □06or one of the CCRR supporters takes pitty...
[21:54] <Staci> □04ets?
[21:54] <cozyrat> □06I think they mean pets. but who knows?
[21:54] <Staci> □04Sometimes....That is who Hamsterbutt came to stay.
[21:54] <Staci> □04how not who
[21:55] <menagerie> What happens to aggressive animals?
[21:55] <Staci> □04If they stay long enough with us it is sometimes very very hard not to get too attached.
[21:55] <Staci> □04They get neutered immediately.
[21:55] <menagerie> females?
[21:55] <Staci> □04Well females are another story.
[21:55] <Staci> □04We just work with the agro rats as much as we can
[21:56] <Staci> □04We try to help them but those who can't be helped we just learn to have mutual understandings with
[21:56] <cozyrat> □06sometimes one of us can foster females are work with them till they're adoptable or we get attached and adopt them
[21:56] <cozyrat> □06*and not are

[21:56] <Staci> □04You can also find people who are looking to adopt a lone rat for those agro rats who just can't intergrate with other rats but like humans

[21:57] <Staci> □04There are always options for the agro rat.

[21:57] <Staci> □04And often times those become my hubbies favs

[21:57] <Staci> □04I like to tease him that he is a rat whisper

[21:57] <Staci> □04LOL

[21:57] <Staci> □04For some reason the agro rats like him

[21:58] <cozyrat> □06it's very adorable

[21:58] <Staci> □04However, just like I have limits on the numbers I can take in I also put a cap on the number of special needs rats I can take in as well.

[21:58] <Staci> □04If I fill my rescue full of special needs rats then I have no room for the easily adoptable rats.

[21:58] <Staci> □04Right now I have 8 special needs rats for adoption and that is my limit. I can't take in any more

[21:59] <cozyrat> □06is that counting my XRC fosters?

[21:59] <Staci> □04Yes...Although I just heard you are failing at fostering.

[21:59] <Staci> □04Yes I know I said earlier that I don't have foster homes.

[22:00] <Staci> □04Becca went and picked these two up for me and just never got them to me.

[22:00] <Staci> □04Or rather I never got them from ehr

[22:00] <Staci> □04her

[22:01] * cozyrat32 (ewcflash@ewc-59861a9f.ip.windstream.net) has joined #RatWise

[22:01] <cozyrat32> □06sorry, internet problems

[22:01] <@OdysseyDesign> wb Becca

[22:02] <@OdysseyDesign> ok...

[22:02] <@OdysseyDesign> I want to thank Staci for being our guest speaker tonight! I know I learned a lot. I want to remind everyone if you wish to be placed on NIRO Rat Chat email reminder list just send your request to OdysseyDesignRattery@yahoo.com. Northern Illinois Rat Organization has begun their annual Rat Calendar contest; details can be found here <http://www.niro-usa.org/calendar.htm> . NIRO has also a Art Contest which details can be found here <http://www.niro-usa.org/art.htm>