

Rats and Mice Exemption from Animal Welfare Act

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Rats and mice, along with birds bred for experimental purposes, are exempt from the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act. The exclusion applies strictly to rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus* that are bred for research purposes. There are many other animals that are colloquially known as rats or mice of different types but are not members of the genera *Rattus* or *Mus*. The exclusion is sometimes designated as the "rodent exclusion," but this too is an error as the term rodent applies to all members of the Order Rodentia, which would include guinea pigs, squirrels, rabbits,...

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