



2026 RAT GENOME DATABASE CALENDAR



Never forget the difference you made!



Thank you. Original artwork courtesy of Drusilla Kehl, The illustrated Rat. Used with permission of the artist.
<https://www.theillustratedrat.com/>

This calendar is dedicated to the rat research community, our non-rat model organism supporters, and the scientists who dedicate themselves to a broader understanding of our world. Thank you for your continued support, collaboration and encouragement.

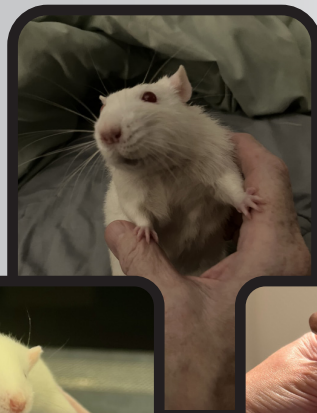
— WITH APPRECIATION, THE RGD TEAM



JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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Feeling Groovy: The Center for Genetics, Genomics, and Epigenetics of Substance Use Disorders maintains the world's only breeding colonies of Heterogeneous stock (HS) rats (McwiWfsmAap:HS, RRID:RGD_155269102 & NMcwiWfsm:HS, RRID:RGD_13673907) and provides HS rats for genome-wide association studies <https://ratgenes.org/cores/core-b/>. The Center also offers RAT TACA, a unique resource that predicts phenotypes in young naive rats using genetic data from more than 20,000 HS rats that have been previously tested for 200+ traits <https://ratgenes.org/rattaca/>. For more details, see <https://ratgenes.org/>. Original image of HS Outbred rats created with ChatGPT5 by Oksana Polesskaya, PhD, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA. Used with permission of the artist.



FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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Cool Hands - Warm Hearts.

Left: Say Cheese! Blonde *R. rattus* offspring of black-coated dam and agouti-coated sire. This rat carries a recessive *Rab38* gene variation associated with abnormal coat/hair pigmentation (MP:0002075). Photo courtesy of Brian Starr.

Top Right: Shall We Dance? Photo of Hamilton courtesy of Kevin R. Grazier, PhD. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0337207/>.

Center Right: Calliope. Photo courtesy of Molly Darling, Darling Rats. <https://www.darlingrats.com/#/>.

Bottom Right: Let Me Get That for You. Photo of a Dahl Salt-Sensitive rat (SS/JrToI, RRID:RGD_724573) courtesy of Sachin Aryal, PhD Candidate, University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, Toledo, OH, USA. Reference: PMID: 36301488. https://www.utoledo.edu/med/depts/phspharm/hypertension_center/



MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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Ready for a Swim. In the wild, rats swim for travel, survival, or play. In research, swimming can be used as a tool to gain insight on coping styles, stress response, or depressive-like behavior.

Left: Cream Bruleé & White Truffle. Original artwork by Drusilla Kehl, The Illustrated Rat. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.theillustratedrat.com/>.

Center: Splish. Splash. Hamilton (Top) and Wernher (Bottom) enjoy bubble baths. Photos courtesy of Kevin R. Grazier, PhD. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0337207/>.

Right: Fish at the Aquarium. Image courtesy of Sarah Hunt, Marty Mouse House. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.martymousehouse.com/>



APRIL 2026

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Happy World Rat Day. Kiara (Left) and her daughter Calliope (Right) invite you to celebrate on April 4th. Rats have been essential to advancing our understanding of genetics and phenotypic expression—for example, Calliope, unlike her mother, displays a hairless phenotype aside from her face. Photo courtesy of Molly Darling, Darling Rats. <https://www.darlingrats.com/#/>



MAY 2026

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May Flowers.

Left: *Waffles, the Agronomist.* Photo courtesy of Sarah Hunt, Marty Mouse House. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.martymousehouse.com/>.

Center: *Spring Blooms.* Two-year-old male Long Evans rats Gimli (Top) and Legolas (Bottom) take a moment to appreciate the full blooms of these hydrangeas. Photos courtesy of Carmen Jane Booth, DVM, PhD, Department of Comparative Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA.

Right: *Magnolia.* Original artwork by Drusilla Kehl, The Illustrated Rat. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.theillustratedrat.com/>



JUNE 2026

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Top Left: *Whatcha Doing?* Photo of Heterogeneous stock rats (NMcwiWfsm:HS, RRID:RGD_13673907) Theo (Left) and Buzz (Right) courtesy of Gina Giorgio.

Bottom Left: *Blankie: Acquired. Snuggle Mode: Activated.* Photo of Linguini courtesy of Kevin R. Grazier, PhD. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0337207/>

Right: *Ready to Explore!* Photo of Ellen courtesy of Kevin R. Grazier, PhD. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0337207/>



JULY 2026

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Peek-a-boo, Dahl Salt-Sensitive rat (SS/JrTol, RRID:RGD_724573). Photo courtesy of Sachin Aryal, PhD Candidate, University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, Toledo, OH, USA. Reference: PMID: 36301488. https://www.utoledo.edu/med/depts/physpharm/hypertension_center/



AUGUST 2026

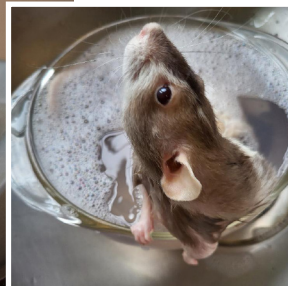
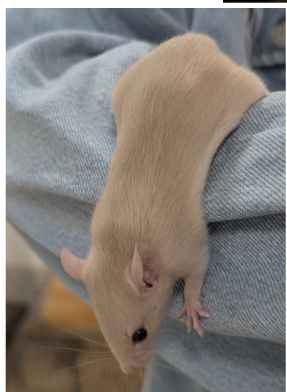
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Mysterious Case of the Curious Rats!

Top Left: *Super Sleuths*. Ellen (Top) and Danielle (Bottom) run surveillance operations. Photo courtesy of Kevin R. Grazier, PhD. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0337207/>.

Top Right: *Inspector Waffles*. Photo courtesy of Sarah Hunt, Marty Mouse House. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.martymousehouse.com/>.

Center, Bottom Left, Bottom Right: *Searching for Cues and Clues*. Photos of Dahl Salt-Sensitive rats (SS/JrTol, RRID:RGD_724573) courtesy of Sachin Aryal, PhD Candidate, University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences, Toledo, OH, USA. https://www.utoledo.edu/med/depts/physpharm/hypertension_center/.



SEPTEMBER 2026

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Play Time.

Left: Blonde *R. rattus* offspring of black-coated dam and agouti-coated sire does some gravity-defying exploring. Photo courtesy of Brian Starr.

Center: Baxter finds himself in a sticky situation. Photo courtesy of Sarah Hunt, Marty Mouse House. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.martymousehouse.com/>.

Right: Beatrice, a 3-year-4-month-old hooded Dumbo rat, enjoys pampering at the spa after a fulfilling day of play. Photo courtesy of Sue Dewey.

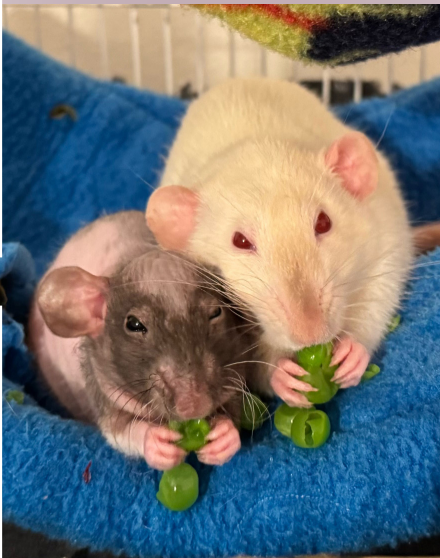
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OCTOBER 2026

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When Goblin Appears, the Treats Disappear.
Original artwork of Goblin by Drusilla Kehl, The Illustrated Rat. Used with permission of the artist.
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NOVEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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Eat & Be Merry.

Left: Beatrice celebrates her 3rd birthday with a tasty treat. Photo courtesy of Sue Dewey.

Center: Calliope (Left) and Kiara (Right) are two peas in a pod. Photo courtesy of Molly Darling, Darling Rats. <https://www.darlingrats.com/#/>.

Top Right: Chef Barry encourages an apple a day. Photo courtesy of Sarah Hunt, Marty Mouse House. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.martymousehouse.com/>.

Bottom Left: Theo, a Heterogeneous stock rat (NIMcwiWfsm:HS, RRID:RGD_13673907) chows down. Photo courtesy of Gina Giorgio.

Bottom Right: Ellen carb loads for a busy day of play. Photo courtesy of Kevin R. Grazier, PhD. <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0337207/>



DECEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
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27	28	29	30	31		

Making a List and Checking it Twice.
Waffles checks his holiday gift list. Photo
courtesy of Sarah Hunt, Marty Mouse
House. Used with permission of the artist.
<https://www.martymousehouse.com/>

RAT GENOME DATABASE

Principal Investigator

- Anne Kwitek, PhD

Co-Investigator

- Mindy Dwinell, PhD

Project Manager

- Jennifer Smith, MSc

Bioinformatics Manager

- Jeff De Pons, BSc

Database Administrator

- Stacy Zacher, MSc

Systems Administrator

- Kent Brodie, MSMI

Research Scientists and Curators

- Wendy Demos, MSc
- Mary Kaldunski, BSc, RLATG
- Stan Lauderkind, PhD
- Carissa Park, MSc
- Monika Tutaj, PhD
- Shur-Jen Wang, PhD

Developers

- Adam Gibson, BSc
- Varun Reddy Gollapally, MSc
- Akhilanand Kundurthi, MSc
- Logan Lamers, BA
- Jyothi Thota, MSc
- Marek Tutaj, MSc



Sweet Treats for a Bittersweet Farewell. In June 2025, RGD Research Scientist Tom Hayman, PhD retired after 15 years on the team. The celebration wouldn't have been complete without cake—and of course, chocolate rats! Photos courtesy of Tom Hayman, PhD. Chocolate rats courtesy of RGD 'chocolatier' Stan Lauderkind, PhD.

Please continue to support RGD by citing our work and visiting our website at <https://rgd.mcw.edu>.

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<https://www.cultivate-communications.com>



Cover Image

Curiosity, Drive, and Imagination. This rendering of a Heterogeneous stock rat (NMcwi:HS, RRID:RGD_2314009) by Samantha Treadway is a vivid reminder that science and art share the same spark to understand our world. Original artwork made digitally with Procreate by Samantha Treadway, Undergraduate Research Assistant in the lab of Paul Meyer, Department of Psychology, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA. Used with permission of the artist. <https://meyerlabscience.org/>



Top Left: *I Thought You Said “Shake”?! Gimli* appreciates the beauty of this *Hydrangea paniculata* ‘Strawberry Shake’ but would prefer a frosty treat. Photo courtesy of Carmen Jane Booth, DVM, PhD, Department of Comparative Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA.

Bottom Left: *Time to Chill.* Elliott (Left) and Franki (Right) are 1.5-year-old Black Berkshire rats adopted from a shelter. Photo courtesy of Sue Dewey.

Top Right: *Family Ties.* This litter, from an agouti-coated sire and a black-coated dam, highlights abnormal coat/hair pigmentation (MP:0002075) linked to a recessive variation in *Rab38*. Photo courtesy of Brian Starr.

Bottom Right: *Reuben, the Lab Rat.* Photo courtesy of Sarah Hunt, Marty Mouse House. Used with permission of the artist. <https://www.martymousehouse.com/>