

Sarah Dale - Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Honestly, from our point of view, it's all fine – as a species we don't go in for whinging. What's the point? Really, if you set yourself up to only eat bamboo and you run into problems, you've got no one to blame but yourself!

We eat everything – I mean, everything – and those guys leave so much lying around, you've got to love them – and building – they're always building stuff, sewers, all sorts – we hardly have to lift a paw.

I can tell you it wasn't this easy being a rat back in the day, scrabbling in the dirt, making do with a natural diet – no fun at all, and so boring; peasant life, my son, is not for me.

There's so many of them, you say? Maybe, but there's a lot more of us – the maths of rat reproduction is truly exponential – we literally illustrate survival of the fittest.

Of course there are downsides – some of my intellectual friends get annoyed about the Norway connection when we actually come from China, but I say, so what? We didn't have to build the ships we used!

Scientific experiments can be a pain and mazes do get a bit tiresome, but life's a two-way street (remember the Black Death?); the data we've collected about homo sapiens is absolutely second to none.

Future problems? Yeah, but we'll be ok, or at least two of us will, one male, one female – that's all it takes for us to populate their next planet – we've got stowaways on every rocket – to infinity and beyond!