

My Rat Has a Bloody Nose



Red staining around the nose and eyes is frequently mistaken for blood. This dark red secretion is actually porphyrin, a product of the rat's Harderian gland. If your rat is stressed or not feeling well, he may produce too much porphyrin and it will collect around his nose and eyes. The amount of porphyrin shown in the photo is considered normal, but excessive amounts around the eyes and nose, or staining on the front feet (from grooming) can be a sign of illness.