



Nibbles Rodent & Rabbit Rescue

Registered Charity Number: 1168657

Located near Crymch

www.nibbles.org.uk

A Life is Rescued
Love is Adopted

Gerbil Facts

Gerbils are social animals and should be kept in same sex pairs.

Gerbils live for between 2-3 years, sometimes even older.

In the wild gerbils create a system of tunnels and burrows only coming out to find food.

Gerbils love to chew and can easily chew through thick plastic toys and cage bases. Therefore, they should not be kept in cages designed for hamsters.

Gerbils should never be picked up by their tails.

Gerbils are most active at dawn and dusk and tend to sleep mostly during the night.

Gerbils enjoy having regular access to a shallow dish of chinchilla bathing dust.

When scared, gerbils tap on the ground with their back feet to warn other gerbils of a potential danger.

Gerbils are sweet and endearing little creatures and, with regular human contact, develop into friendly and social little pets.

Gerbil housing is called a gerbilarium.

Basic Gerbil Care

Healthy Diet

Gerbils eat grains, seeds and nuts and enjoy a varied diet which includes a variety of fresh foods such as fruit and vegetables. A good quality hamster mix such as Harry Hamster should be fed in small quantities once a day. Be careful of pet shop treats as many are high in sugars and should only be fed occasionally. Gerbils are particularly addicted to sunflower seeds, however, these are high in fat and not much else so should only be fed as an occasional treat.

Housing

A pair of gerbils will require a minimum cage size of 75cm (l) x 45cm (w) x 37cm (h), but bigger is always better. We recommend:



Skyline Small Pet Terrarium

Kerry which can be purchased from Zooplus at

https://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/small_pets/hutches_cages/gerbils_cage_s/219419



Skyline Falco Small Pet Cage

which can be purchased from Zooplus at

https://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/small_pets/hutches_cages/gerbils_cage_s/189556

Care

Housing will need to be thoroughly cleaned at least once a month and spot cleaned every week. It is important to clean out sleeping areas at least every other day, as gerbils love to store food in their beds, which can quickly grow mouldy. Fresh drinking water should always be available via a water bottle. Gerbilariums should be filled with a deep layer of a paper based litter which will allow them to dig tunnels and burrows. They also love small cardboard boxes and toilet roll tubes to chew into teeny pieces.

For more information on mouse care and welfare we recommend:

<https://www.vetbabble.com/small-pets/gerbil-care/>