



# Nibbles Rodent & Rabbit Rescue

Registered Charity Number: 1168657

Located near Crymch

[www.nibbles.org.uk](http://www.nibbles.org.uk)

A Life is Rescued  
Love is Adopted

## Degu Facts

As social a social species, degus need company of their own kind.

Degus live for between 6-8 years, sometimes even older.

Degus are incredibly active animals and require a large living space and access to at least one exercise wheel. Preferably a wheel for each degu, enabling each degu to exercise independently. Wheels need to be a minimum of 28cm in diameter with a 15cm rim and made of metal. Make your own wheel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5e2l-oxQwE>

Degus don't produce insulin and are therefore unable to cope with sugar in their diet, this includes naturally occurring sugars.

Degus aren't able to process fats, and therefore should not be fed nuts and seeds which are high in fats. These fats accumulate in the liver eventually leading to liver failure.

To keep their coats in good condition degus need daily access to a specialist bathing dust.

Degus are very vocal rodents and have a wide variety of clicks and squeaks which they use to communicate with each other.

Degus are active during the day.

## Basic Degu Care

### Healthy Diet

Degus should always have access to good quality hay allowing them to graze constantly. Once a day they should be given a small amount of a good quality extruded pellet feed, which has been specifically designed for degus. There are many products sold in pet shops which are labelled as suitable for degus, when in fact they are not! Avoid anything with honey, dairy products, nuts and seeds, raisins and other dried fruits. All of these will lead to long term health problems and significantly reduce the degu's lifespan.

### Housing

Degus are experts when it comes to chewing, therefore we only recommend all metal cages. A pair of degus will require a cage no smaller than 96cm (l) x 63cm (w) x 120cm (h). We recommend:



**Rat & Ferret Cage** by Pet Planet which can be purchased at:

[https://www.petplanet.co.uk/product.asp?dept\\_id=456&pf\\_id=68616](https://www.petplanet.co.uk/product.asp?dept_id=456&pf_id=68616)



**Savic Suite Royal XL**

which can be purchased at:

[https://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/small\\_pets/hutches\\_cages/chinchilla\\_cages/469805](https://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/small_pets/hutches_cages/chinchilla_cages/469805)

### Care

Housing will need to be thoroughly cleaned at least once a week and spot cleaned every 2-3 days. Bathing dust should be made available at least once a day for a minimum of 10 minutes. Fresh water should be available at all times via a water bottle and an area for fresh hay should also be provided. Degus love to chew and should be provided with a variety of suitable enrichment items. They love willow toys and other wooden chew toys commonly found in pet shops.

For more information on degu care and welfare we recommend:

[www.degutopia.co.uk](http://www.degutopia.co.uk)