



FACT SHEET - DEGUS

Lovely and entertaining little creatures. They can be friendly and handled but some can give a nasty bite! Degus originate from Chile and need a special diet as they are naturally diabetic and lack the ability to digest sugar. Even sugars in an apple can cause death. Never try to catch a degu by its tail. Its natural defence against predators is to lose the end of its tail which never grows back and can become infected.



Degus Need

- A large cage, preferably with 3 tiers
- A mixed diet of chinchilla pellets, guinea pig mix, hard vegetables such as carrots & green beans, cucumber and fresh hay. No sugar.
- A supply of fresh drinking water available at all times
- Companionship of another same sexed degu
- Suitable bedding such as paper based cat litter or cardboard bedding
- Chinchilla dust for bathing

Degu Health

- Diabetes. Degus cannot metabolise sugar. Do not feed fruit or raisins. Check with your vet
- Bumblefoot is caused by having to walk constantly on a wire surface in its cage. Give adequate bedding and consult your vet
- Can be prone to liver disease and mouth diseases
- Cataracts is a genetic condition
- Avoid eye infections by keeping the cage clean and the dust bath free from debris
- Teeth are constantly growing and can also grow upwards towards the eye socket so should be regularly checked by your vet

Degu Facts

- Average lifespan is 10 years, sometimes more
- Teeth are naturally yellow or orange coloured. White teeth can indicate serious disease

This is intended as a quick guide only. Further information should be obtained before embarking on keeping this type of pet.