



FACT SHEET - GERBILS

Gerbils are bright, inquisitive little creatures and great fun to watch.

They like to keep themselves clean. In the wild, gerbils live in groups called colonies. Adult gerbils tend to fight unless they are from the same litter. Handle gerbils gently and safely using both hands cupped.

Never pick one up by the tail.



Gerbils Need

- The companionship of other gerbils
- A daily diet of mixed grain, fresh fruit and vegetables with a few sunflower seeds
- A constant supply of fresh water in a drinking bottle
- A large aquarium tank with a wire mesh cover, filled with plenty of peat and chopped hay for burrowing
- Nesting material such as shredded plain paper
- A gnawing block of soft wood to help wear their teeth

Gerbil Health

- Living in a glass tank, care must be taken that they do not suffer from becoming too hot. Make sure the tank is not left in direct sunlight
- Gnawing and burrowing habits may cause sores on their nose or eyes
- Tail injuries can be caused through bad handling or minor accidents
- Teeth can become overgrown. Check for this regularly and if the teeth do become overgrown, your vet will need to trim them
- Look out for any signs of sickness including lack of interest in food, lethargy or diarrhoea. If your gerbil has any of these symptoms, take it straight to your vet

Gerbil Facts

- Average lifespan is 2 - 3 years
- A female comes into season every 6 days throughout the year for an average of 5 hours
- Gestation is approximately 24

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