

Gerbil care at a glance

Accommodation

Minimum size: 100 x 40 x 40cm.

Ideal location: quiet room, avoid high humidity.

Indoor only

Bar spacing: 1.5cm or less.

Substrate depth: 'Burrow-able' 20cm +

Suitable substrate types: Hemp, paper products (like Carefresh) wood pulp products (like Megazorb), shredded paper, shredded card, coco soil, hay.

Mixing substrates helps maintain burrow structures.

Diurnal – mostly active during the day

Natural behaviours

Digging, burrowing, nesting, running, foraging, gnawing, hoarding food, sand bathing.

Reproduction

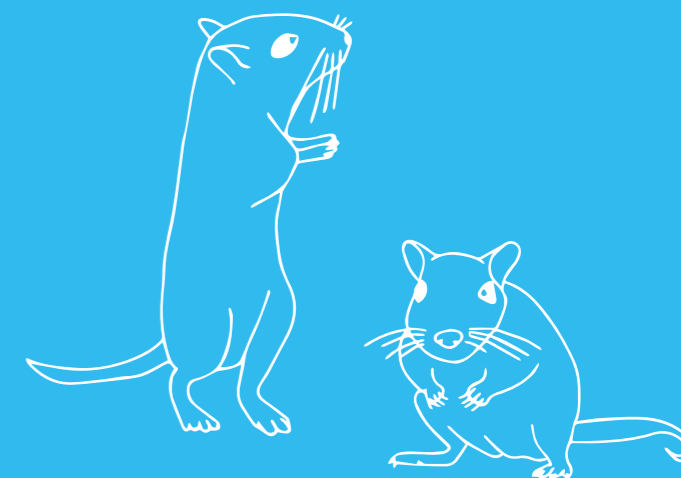
Gestation period: 24-26 days.

Age of sexual maturity: 10-12 weeks

Split from opposite sex litter mates: 8 weeks.

Neutering: Not required unless introducing to a female.

Average
life span
**3-4
years**



Cleaning

Spot clean daily: remove uneaten food and soiled bedding. Change the water.

Full clean: Every 3-4 weeks.

Return some used bedding to the freshly cleaned cage.

Vaccinations required: No

Microchipping required: No

Companionship

Ideal groups:

- 2-3 females
- 2-4 males
- Male and female pair

Diet

Main feed: 1 tsp high quality commercial mixed gerbil food per day.

Gerbils are omnivores which require plant and animal-based products.

Appropriate additional feeds: See feeding chart for vegetables and protein.

Seeds sprays such as millet, wheat ears, flax (linseed) oat sprigs, amaranth. Petals such as sunflower, rose, chamomile, cornflower and dandelion.

Enrichment

Provide: Wheel, wide tunnels or pipes, nesting material, hides, safe tree branches, plenty of cardboard, digging box, sand bath.

No plastic.

Minimum wheel size: 21cm

Gerbils can be rehomed from 8 weeks old

Top tip

Having only one nest area helps keep the social group together.

Harmful food

Rhubarb, kidney beans, potato, avocado, onions, garlic, leeks, chilli.