

Gerbil Care Sheet

1. Housing:

Provide a spacious cage that is at least 10 gallons (38 liters) in size for a pair of gerbils. Bigger is always better!

Opt for a cage with a solid bottom to prevent bedding from falling out.

Avoid wire-bottomed cages to prevent foot injuries.

Ensure proper ventilation in the cage.

Gerbils are burrowing animals, so provide deep bedding of at least 4 inches (10 cm) for them to dig and tunnel.

2. Bedding and Substrate:

Choose a safe and suitable bedding such as aspen shavings, paper-based bedding, or hemp bedding.

Avoid cedar or pine bedding, as the strong odors can be harmful to gerbils.

Add nesting material like torn tissue paper or hay for their comfort.

3. Diet:

Offer a high-quality commercial gerbil pellet as the main part of their diet.

Supplement their diet with fresh vegetables, fruits, and occasional treats like sunflower seeds or dried mealworms.

Provide fresh, clean water in a sipper bottle. Check the bottle daily to ensure it is working properly.

4. Enrichment and Toys:

Provide various toys, tunnels, and hideouts for your gerbils to explore, chew, and play with.

Include an exercise wheel that is solid and large enough for them to run without arching their back.

Gerbils love to dig, so offer a digging box filled with child-safe, chemical-free play sand.

5. Socialization and Handling:

Gerbils are social animals and thrive in pairs or small groups. Avoid keeping them alone.

Handle your gerbils gently and regularly to build trust and create a bond.

Start by offering treats and letting them sniff your hand.

6. Cleaning and Maintenance:

Clean the cage regularly, removing any soiled bedding and waste.

Spot clean daily and do a thorough cleaning once a month.

Wash the cage with mild, pet-safe detergent and rinse it thoroughly before adding fresh bedding.

7. Health and Veterinary Care:

Monitor your gerbils for signs of illness, including weight loss, lethargy, loss of appetite, or changes in behavior.

Provide a well-balanced diet to maintain their overall health.

Schedule regular check-ups with an exotic veterinarian who has experience with small animals.

Remember, gerbils have specific needs and require regular attention and care.

By providing them with a suitable environment, a balanced diet, and mental stimulation, you can ensure that your gerbils lead happy and healthy lives