

## Habitat Needs

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### Housing

- A cage or habitat that is at least 16" x 10", for 1-2 gerbils.
- Aspen wood shavings, Soft Sorbent or Total Comfort are recommended for bedding material.

### Habitat Placement

- Place your gerbil's home away from drafts, an ideal temperature range is 68°F - 75°F. No special lighting is required, room lighting is sufficient with a 12-hour photo period.

### Articles of Enrichment

- Gerbils need an exercise wheel.
- Running balls are a great way to provide exercise and enrichment.
- They also need wood pieces to chew on, to keep their continually growing teeth trimmed.
- Provide a nesting material your gerbil can burrow in.
- Toilet paper rolls for him to chew on, crawl through and hide in.

## Nutrition

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### Staple Diet

- The current recommendations for feeding in captivity are pelleted rodent ration containing 10-15% protein. A lot of diets for hamster/gerbils are based mainly of seed, sun flower seeds are high in fat therefore it's a good idea to pick them out of the mix and save those as treats for later. This will encourage bonding & eliminate hoarding.
- Too many high fat seeds may lead to obesity.

### Water

- Water can be supplied in a water bottle and should be changed daily.
- Check the valve on the water bottle daily to ensure it's working properly.

### Health

Illnesses that may affect your gerbil

- Wet tail, dental problems, trauma, bladder stones, cancer, abscesses, salmonellas, rabies

## Extra Information

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- A gerbil's life span is up to 4 years.
- Gerbils are social and would rather live in pairs, same sex is best to avoid unwanted litters.
- Gerbils love to chew and will chew on anything, including their own home! Provide plenty of chewables.
- Gerbils will enjoy an occasional sand bath & this will keep their coat looking dry and smooth.
- It is best to introduce gerbils into your family at a young age, as they are far more docile prior to reaching sexual maturity.

