



All About the **Gerbil**

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The Gerbil

About the Gerbil

There are many different species of gerbils but the most common species kept as a pet is the Mongolian Gerbil. They originate from Mongolia and Northern China and they are exceptional diggers.

It is important to make an informed pet selection and equally as important to make informed decisions throughout the life of your pet. We will take you through the process of bringing home your new family member and lead you all the way to cherishing your memories of the life you share together. We will provide you with an outstanding number of tips and helpful advice relating to all aspects of your life with your new pet. This complimentary book is packed full of all the information you will need to be a great parent to your new gerbil! You will be given access to checklists and handy medical information to ensure you are taking proper care of your new family member and we will even provide you with beautiful pictures of gerbils like yours. So take a few minutes to read over this information and prepare to embark on a fun, memory filled adventure with your new gerbil.



- [Toys for Your Gerbil](#)
- [Treats for Your Gerbil](#)

Gerbil Characteristics

Gerbils are social and entertaining pets. They are active at all times of the day and will take short naps throughout the day. Gerbils are great pets for people that work or go to school because they are fine to be left alone during the day and will happily entertain themselves while you are gone. The life span of a gerbil is 3-5 years. Proper health care and cleaning of your gerbil's environment will help him to live the longest and happiest life possible. Gerbils prefer the company of other gerbils but need to be introduced to each other at an early age. Older gerbils tend to be less tolerable of new things in their environment. While they make great pets for children, the care of the gerbil should be supervised by an adult. As with any animal, proper diet, exercise, and veterinary attention will benefit you and your gerbil.



Average Weight	Male: 30-110g Female: 70-100g	Temperament	Agile, lively, inquisitive
Average litter size	4-6 gerbils	Good with Children?	Does well with all children under adult supervision
Coat	Short Hair, Variety of Colors	Health Concerns	Scent gland, tumors, Inner ear problems, Tyzzers Disease

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Selecting Your Gerbil

A Few Words about Breeders

Purchasing your gerbil from a reputable breeder may be the best option. They are bred with specific attention placed on health and temperament. Also most breeders will provide some type of guarantee where you can return the gerbil if it does not work out. A breeder will be able to tell you the exact date of birth of your gerbil which is important because of their relatively short lifespan. Also ask to see the parents of your new gerbil. Gerbils bought from a breeder will generally have been handled more, possibly giving them a better temperament. Not all breeders are reputable and may be in the business for financial reasons only. These breeders are more interested in producing the most gerbils they can rather than the healthiest. Check with gerbil clubs or the classifieds to locate a good breeder.

A Few Words about Pet Stores

Perhaps you prefer to purchase your gerbil from your local pet store. Pet stores usually purchase their gerbils from commercial gerbil farms. The problem with this is that temperament, health, and date of birth can be in question. If you know what to look for you can still make a smart choice when choosing your gerbil.

How to Choose your New Gerbil

There are several things to look for when choosing a new gerbil. Make sure the cages are not overcrowded. The gerbils should be divided in cages by sex. This is important because if they are not you could end up with a pregnant female. Determining the sex of gerbils is very easy. The gerbils should have easy access to their food and water in the cage. If one gerbil in the cage appears sick then it is best to choose one from a different cage or store because if one is sick it is likely that others are as well.

Pet stores are viable options for selecting your gerbil. Of course, finding a good breeder is always a good option too. Make sure you look for the following signs of a healthy gerbil:

- Eyes should be large and clear
- Should be curious and inquisitive
- Fur should be soft
- The tail should be as long as the body with a tuft of fur at the end
- The body should be well formed and stocky



You'll need these basics before your Gerbil comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Cage](#)
- [Bedding](#)
- [Litter](#)
- [Food Dish](#)
- [Wheel](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Bed](#)
- [Carrier](#)
- [Treats](#)
- [Water Bottle](#)
- [Nail Trimmer](#)
- [Toys](#)



[Advantage Small Animal Cage](#)

Before you bring Your Gerbil Home

It is important to be as prepared as possible to provide a safe and secure environment for your new friend. In an effort to prepare for the care of your new best friend you should create a checklist and learn about the special needs of your gerbil. Before you bring your gerbil home you will need the basic necessities of a suitable cage, floor covering, nesting material, a water bottle and food. Have the cage in a good location set up and ready for your new gerbil. The pet store or breeder will give you a cardboard carrier to bring your gerbil home in. These will work for no more than 30 minutes to an hour because the gerbil will begin to try and chew its way out of it. Most pet stores sell plastic carriers for small animals which may be better if you have a longer travel time. Be sure to place some shredded tissue paper and food in whatever container you use so your gerbil will be comfortable on the ride home.

Once you get your new gerbil home you will be tempted to want to keep him out and play with him right away. However, it is best to leave him in the cage for two or three days and let him get used to his surroundings to reduce his stress level. After a few days, your gerbil will begin to settle down. This is the perfect time to get him out and the two of you can get acquainted. Create a list of items that you need for your new pet. At the end of this book you will find a list of recommended items and some suggestions on choosing the right ones.

Being prepared is the most important aspect of introducing your new gerbil to his or her new environment. Purchase books about gerbils, ask questions of the breeder or pet store, read about your pet online or at your community library. Pay attention to the details for true success and your new gerbil will make a quick and happy adjustment to his new home.

Through The Years

The Gerbil Pup

Each stage of your gerbil's life will be characterized by special needs. Once your gerbil gets used to his new home you have many happy and fun times to look forward to. Enjoy the time you spend with your gerbil. There are many fun toys and extra items you can purchase that will be fun for both you and your new friend.

Maintaining a clean cage for your gerbil to live in is the first step in ensuring that they remain as healthy as possible. The cage should be cleaned and disinfected once a week. Make sure to mix in some of the old bedding with the new bedding so your gerbil will still feel at home. Gerbils should be fed a well balanced diet consisting of a basic gerbil food and small amounts of other things such as bread, eggs, raisins and breakfast cereals. Any food that is not eaten after a few days should be removed from the cage so it does not start to rot. Water should be given on a daily basis. A water bottle is preferable to a bowl because the gerbil will likely knock shavings into the water. Food can be placed into a bowl or sprinkled on the bottom of the cage. Putting it on the bottom of the cage will encourage them to forage as they do in the wild. Gerbils are capable of bathing and cleaning themselves and therefore do not require grooming.



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The Gerbil Adult

Daily well being checks by you will keep your adult gerbil healthy and happy. Check their noses daily. Any sores on the nose can indicate an allergy perhaps to the bedding, they can be caused from your gerbil burrowing and can even be caused by stress. If left untreated these can become infected and turn into something much more serious. When you are playing with your gerbil, hold them close to your ear and listen for any sounds of rasping or clicking. These noises can indicate a chest infection which will require antibiotic treatment from your vet. Your gerbil's teeth also need to be checked on a regular basis. If you gerbil appears to be losing weight but is otherwise healthy, it may have lost one of its teeth. You will need to feed it soft food and possibly trim down their other teeth while the one grows back. A good test for this is to hold a piece of paper in front of your gerbil. They will instinctively begin to try and chew it. If they do not, then this is an indication that there is a problem. All these steps can be accomplished in your daily playtime with your gerbil and will ensure that he lives a healthy and happy life.

The Gerbil Senior

While longer than the lifespan of a hamster, the gerbil still only has a lifespan of 3-5 years. As you gerbil begins to age, beginning at about 2 years or so, you will notice that he will sleep more and may not be as active as he once was. They may begin to chew less which can cause their teeth to become too long. This should be monitored on a regular basis. Care for your senior gerbil in a loving and gentle way and do your best to make him comfortable and happy. If your gerbil become unable to do normal gerbil things or becomes unable to feed himself you may want to consult your vet on the options available.

You are about to embark on a wonderful journey with your new gerbil. Enjoy the special moments with your pet and keep them close to your heart. Display pictures of your gerbil around your home or office.

Medical Considerations

Gerbils are generally healthy and many live their whole lives without ever becoming ill but the following are things to be on the lookout for:

- Scent gland tumors – These will present themselves mostly in older male gerbils because they tend to mark their territory more than females. Females can get them but it is just rarer. These will start as a small hard lump on the gland. Your gerbil may begin to chew on it as it gets more irritating. These tumors can be removed by your vet once they get large enough.
- Inner ear problems – This is also more common in older gerbils. This is caused by a cyst in the ear called a cholesteatoma. They are common in gerbils and untreatable. If your gerbil has one of these cysts you will begin to notice him walking with his head tilted to one side. While the cyst itself is untreatable, the symptoms can be treated with an anti-inflammatory injection by your vet.



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Medical Considerations...continued

- Tyzzer's Disease – This serious illness affects many rodent species and is caused by an organism that attacks the intestines and colon then spreads to the liver. This is seen mostly in suckling or weanling gerbils but any age can be effected. Symptoms include rough coat, weakness, lethargy or diarrhea. The mortality rate for gerbils that contract Tyzzer's Disease is high at 80% and death can occur in as little as 48 hours. Some gerbils can carry this disease and show no symptoms until subjected to a stressful environment. If you notice any of these symptoms in your gerbil you should seek veterinary care immediately.



Necessary Items

The following are items that you will need to keep your gerbil healthy and happy.

- Floor Covering
- Nesting Material
- Exercise
- Water Bottles
- Tunnel Toys
- Food
- Sand Bath
- Wood Gnaws



[Camp-N-Out Tent](#)

Popular Products for your Gerbil

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[Toob-A-Round](#)

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