

Pet Depot recommends the following products for good health and proper care.

Basic needs for all Small Pets

- ☐ **Cage** Large enough for adult size
- ☐ **Bedding** Absorbent & controls odor
- ☐ **Food dish** Weighted crocks
- ☐ **Water Bottle** Sanitary & spill proof
- ☐ **Treats** Variety in diet & added nutrition
- ☐ **Chew Sticks/Treats** Satisfies natural need to chew

Essentials for a Hamster & Gerbil

- ☐ **Food** We feed and recommend Sunseed hamster & gerbil Food
- ☐ **Wheel** For essential exercise & health
- ☐ **Exercise Ball** For exercise & fun for the family
- ☐ **Nesting Material** For sleeping, warmth and nesting

Essentials for a Rabbit

- ☐ **Food** We feed and recommend Sunseed rabbit Food
- ☐ **Salt Block** For additional sodium & minerals
- ☐ **Hay/Alfalfa Cubes** Natural food & fiber source
- ☐ **Leash/Harness** For exercise, walking & fun
- ☐ **Nail Trimmers** Keeps nails short & smooth
- ☐ **Brush** Helps remove loose hair

Essentials for a Guinea Pig

- ☐ **Food** We feed and recommend Sunseed guinea pig Food
- ☐ **Hay/Alfalfa Cubes** Natural food & fiber source
- ☐ **Nail Trimmers** Keeps nails short & smooth
- ☐ **Salt Block** For added minerals

Essentials for a Ferret

- ☐ **Food** A complete ferret formula
- ☐ **Litter & Litter Pan** Corner pan works best
- ☐ **Litter Scoop** For scooping out litter
- ☐ **Cage** Large enough for an active ferret
- ☐ **Weighted Dishes** To prevent spilling
- ☐ **Ferret Shampoo** For a clean, fresh smelling coat
- ☐ **Deodorizing Spray** Gives a fresh, clean smell
- ☐ **Ferret Hammock** For sleeping
- ☐ **Toys, Tunnels** For exercise & fun
- ☐ **Leash & Collar** For walking, training & fun

Small Animal

Basic Care & Guarantee




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Our Mission is to promote a compassionate and caring environment for animals and our employees. Our current staff are dedicated pet lovers and join us in fulfilling our mission of caring for happy, healthy pets.

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General

Small animals are naturally healthy and disease resistant. The most common health problems are colds and bronchial infections. Sneezing, coughing, watery eyes, runny noses, etc. are symptoms of these illnesses. Avoid exposure to cold temperatures, drafts, or wet litter. It is important to practice good hygiene when handling all animals. Bacteria can be spread through contact with feces, so wash your hands with soap and water immediately after any contact with any pets, their cages, or their bedding.

Nutrition

Most commercial small animal foods supply a balanced diet for your small pet. Each food is specially formulated for the different nutritional requirements of each small animal. Because guinea pigs must have vitamin C in their diet to thrive, it is especially important to provide them food specifically for guinea pigs. We feed and recommend Sunseed small pet foods. They are formulated by nutritionists and veterinarians.

Housing

Before choosing a home for your pet, there are a few considerations to keep in mind. Your pet will spend most of the day in this home. The home should be large enough for the pet to move around freely, space to grow, good ventilation, and a deep bottom tray to contain the litter. The frequency with which the enclosure is cleaned depends on its design, what it is made of, and the number or type of pets within. As a general rule, the enclosure and all cage “furniture” should be cleaned and disinfected once weekly. The food and water containers should be cleaned and disinfected daily.

Chewing and Gnawing

A small animal’s teeth continue to grow throughout its lifetime. Chewing and gnawing are necessary to keep teeth from overgrowing. Overgrown teeth must be trimmed by a veterinarian. Always provide chewable items for your pet such as wooden chews.



Litter

Cedar bedding may cause respiratory problems in some animals due to allergies, so we do not recommend cedar for small pets. Pine shavings, corn cob, or many newer bedding materials are better choices for your pet. The bedding should be changed frequently, at least once a week.

Nail Trimming

Normally hamsters, gerbils, mice, and rats do not need their nails trimmed. Rabbits and guinea pigs nails do need periodic trimming to keep the nails from overgrowing and becoming uncomfortably for your pet. When trimming nails, be careful not to cut the vein. It can be seen, in light-colored nails, as a pink coloration inside the nail. Have styptic powder on hand to stop bleeding. Cut off tiny amounts at a time until the proper length is achieved. Stop at the first sign of bleeding.



Ferrets

Baby ferrets are comical and entertaining pets. They are very social animals and love playing with each other. Ferrets are domestically raised and have been neutered or spayed, de-scented, and have also received the first distemper vaccination. It is illegal to keep ferrets as pets in some municipalities. Before purchasing a pet ferret, be sure to check your local zoning ordinances to see that you are allowed to own a ferret in your community.

Life Chart

Hamster

Longevity.....	2-3 years
Gestation.....	16 days
Weaned from Mother.....	3 weeks
Sexual Maturity.....	60 days

Gerbil

Longevity.....	4 years
Gestation.....	24 days
Weaned from Mother.....	3 weeks
Sexual Maturity.....	75 days

Guinea Pig

Longevity.....	6-8 years
Gestation.....	65-70 days
Weaned from Mother.....	3 weeks
Sexual Maturity.....	3 months

Rabbit

Longevity.....	8-10 years
Gestation.....	30-32 days
Weaned from Mother.....	6 weeks
Sexual Maturity.....	6 months

Ferret

Longevity.....	8-10 years
Gestation.....	42 days
Weaned from Mother.....	6-8 weeks
Sexual Maturity.....	10-12 months

Small Pet Guarantee

Thank you for shopping at Pet Depot. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us, or better yet stop in and let us know how your new pet is doing! **We want you and your new pet to be happy.** We guarantee our small animals and ferrets to be healthy for 7 days at 100% replacement value. Pet Depot is not able to assume responsibility for veterinary bills. Should a problem occur, please contact us immediately. We may ask you to bring in your receipt and your small pet.

Thank you,
The Staff at

Pet Depot
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