Guide to Small Animals

Promoting the Well-Being of Small Animals
Introduction

This leaflet has been produced to help you choose the small pet that is most suitable for you, whether it is a rabbit, guinea pig, hamster, gerbil, rat, chinchilla or ferret. It includes important information on how to care for each animal, as well as advising on feeding, housing and common illnesses, so you know what to expect when getting your new pet.

Each and every animal is different and deserves the correct care and consideration, as well as commitment when being looked after as a pet. However, this leaflet is intended as a guide only, so before getting your pet, you should also speak to an expert.

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- Guide to Rabbits
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- Flystrike
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Guinea Pigs are very clever and sociable animals. They don't need a high cage as they don't jump but floor space should be 1m² / guinea pig with a soft bedding and in an environment between 18 - 26 °C. In wintertime they should be housed indoors. Guinea pigs are best fed twice a day with a high fibrous diet and vitamin C.

Most guinea pigs do not mind being handled when done so correctly; tips on this can be found on page 15 in this leaflet. They will love having a companion if the hutch is big enough to comfortably accommodate them both; the best companions are littermates or single sex groups. They should not be housed with rabbits.

If cared for correctly rabbits can live between 5-10 years.

Rabbits are very playful and loving animals. They can be housed both indoors and outdoors. When housed outdoors, rabbits will need a large hutch. The hutch must be cleaned regularly, to avoid flies being attracted, which could result in your rabbit becoming ill (See page 36 - Flystrike)

They need feeding twice a day, preferably early morning and at night. Plenty of exercise is important as rabbits are naturally very active animals. Rabbits are also prey animals and need a protected run with a box to hide in and lots of playthings (see also Furry Fun Accessories range). Most rabbits don’t mind being handled so long as you do so with care! (see tips on page 11)

Rabbits do enjoy having a companion, but you do need a hutch that can comfortably house both of them. You can best place two rabbits of different gender (neutered) together or two does from the same litter. Don’t keep rabbits with guinea pigs, as bullying of both species can occur.

If cared for correctly rabbits can live between 5-10 years.

Guinea Pig

Hamsters are clever and adventurous animals. They must live indoors in a wire cage with a bedded solid-bottom floor that is escape proof. Hamsters can gnaw through wood, plastic and soft metals. Hamsters need playthings and frequent handling can make them tame. Play with them in the evening or at night, as they are nocturnal animals that like to sleep during the day.

Hamsters are omnivorous, hoard food and need chewing material. The best feeding time is in the evening when they start to wake up. Avoid food with sharp edges to prevent damage to the delicate cheek pouches.

Hamsters can be handled when awake. Never handle a hamster when sleeping or not fully alert, and remember it’s a small animal so pick them up slowly. Look at the tips on page 19 of this leaflet. Depending on the breed, some dwarf hamsters will be fine with a companion, whereas Syrian (gold) hamsters need to live by themselves, see page 19.

Hamsters have a life span of 1-3 years.

Gerbils are friendly and inquisitive animals. The best form of home is a gerbilarium, typically made of (plexi)glass with a lid containing ventilation holes but tightly shut to make it escape-proof.

In the wild, gerbils will feed on a vegetarian diet (seed, grains, roots) supplemented with insects. Avoid high levels of fat (peanuts) in their diet as this can lead to obesity and a high cholesterol level. They are naturally inquisitive and very active animals and a thick layer of sawdust or other substrate is needed for burrowing and digging tunnels. Gerbils can be handled, but only when done correctly, (look at the tips on page 23), otherwise you could damage or scare your gerbil.

A gerbils lifespan is 3-5 years.

Gerbil

Hamster

Rabbit
**Rat**

**Rats** are very intelligent and agile animals. As with hamsters, they live inside, in a larger wire cage with a solid floor. The cage should preferably have two levels, giving them enough room to live for the next 2-4 years.

Rats are omnivores, so need protein; they should not be fed human food or nuts. Rats need feeding once a day, but they tend to hoard food so check the cage regularly for old food and throw it away.

Rats tend to sleep during the day and will wake up in the evening to play for several hours. They need a large run and they like climbing and hiding, so playthings will keep them (and the kids) entertained.

They are very sociable animals and are best kept in pairs or single sex groups when housed together from an early age. They enjoy play fighting; however a younger rat being introduced to an older rat may cause serious fighting leading to injury. It is fine to handle a rat but it is best to follow the guide on page 27 of this leaflet.

*If cared for correctly rats can live between 2-4 years.*

**Chinchilla**

**Chinchillas** are very bright, inquisitive and fast and lively climbers. They require a large cage that includes a climbing area, a sleeping box and a (daily) fresh sand bath. The cage should be housed indoors and kept out of drafts, and temperatures above 28°C.

Chinchillas are true herbivores and have very sensitive digestive systems needing a lot of fibre. Hay should therefore be available for them at all times, which also wears down their continuously growing teeth. They feed as necessary, so can be fed once a day.

They like to keep themselves busy and are very inquisitive animals, so plenty of playthings will keep your chinchilla occupied. They like to be kept with a companion, and should be housed in single sex groups, polygamous groups or in pairs. Check for more detailed advice on page 30.

*Chinchillas can live between 10-20 years.*

**Ferret**

**Ferrets** are very intelligent and inquisitive animals. They can live in wire cages, preferably with several levels so they have lots of space. They can also live freely in the house or an enclosure, with an easily accessible water bottle, food bowl and litter tray.

Ferrets are carnivores, therefore need high levels of meat protein and fat. They have a very short digestive tract, so they need small frequent meals throughout the day. They are extremely active and playful animals, so they always need time to socialise with you and they also enjoy playing with a variety of tunnels and balls.

Ferrets do not mind being handled when done so correctly, so its best to follow the advice given on page 34.

*Domesticated ferrets can live between 5-11 years.*

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**Which animal is right for you?**

- **Rat** can live between 2-4 years.
- **Ferret** can live between 5-11 years.
- **Chinchilla** can live between 10-20 years.

More detailed information on each animal can be found next in this leaflet.
Latin Name: Oryctolagus Cuniculus
Female: Doe
Male: Buck
Young: Kittens
Life span: 5-10 years (domesticated)
Litter size: 4-12 kittens
Birth weight: 30-80g
Eyes open: 10 days
Gestation period: 30-33 days
Average weight: Male 1-5 kg Female 1-8 kg
Sexual maturity: 16-24 weeks
Weaning age: 4-7 weeks
Vaccinations: Myxomatosis, (every 6-12 months depending on risk in your area), VHD (annually)
Diet: Herbivorous (average 60-70 grams per day)

History: Originally the European rabbit was found in the wild, in regions of Spain, Portugal and North West Africa. Rabbits were introduced to England in the 11th Century and used for sport, meat and, in some cases, fur (such as the Angora rabbits whose fur was spun for wool). Along the way, the process of domestication began by keeping rabbits in hutches for breeding and meat production. Gradually rabbits were bred for colour and also to enter into friendly competitions. The 19th Century saw rabbits become household pets. The Latin name for rabbits is “Oryctolagus cuniculus”. Oryct is Greek for digger, lag is Greek for hare and cuniculus is Latin for burrowing.

Breeds: There are a wide variety of sizes, shapes, colours and coats (over 100 different breeds altogether). Some rabbits have been bred for particular characteristics such as long ears (lops), long coats (Angoras) and there are dwarf breeds that have shortened noses and faces. The most common breeds kept as pets are the Dutch, Dwarf Lop and the Netherland Dwarf.
Looking After Your Rabbits

A good hutch will have two compartments – one for the day and one to nest and hide in at night. The minimum size for a good hutch is 4ft x 2ft x 2ft high (120cm x 60cm x 60cm) for a single, medium sized breed. It should be around 4-5 times the length of the rabbit when the rabbit is stretched out. The hutch will need to be much larger if you are keeping more than one rabbit. It should always be high enough to enable the rabbit to sit upright, with its ears pricked up, without touching the top of the hutch.

The hutch should be placed in a position that is sheltered, out of direct sunlight. Extremes of temperature can cause stress, which may result in discomfort or illness. In cold weather there must be adequate protection from draughts, wind and rain. Plastic sheets over the front of the cage can prevent rain from driving into the cage, but should allow for ventilation.

You will need to provide fresh safe bedding that is highly absorbent, to keep your rabbit safe and warm. Hutches should be cleaned out on a regular basis. This is especially important in warmer weather in order to prevent flies being attracted to the hutch, as this may result in an infestation of maggots. In the winter months, bedding can become damp and mouldy from extreme weather.

See the Supreme range of bedding and cleaning products on pages 50-51

Feeding your Rabbit

In their natural habitat rabbits eat a range of grasses, weeds, leaves, shoots and twigs as well as the bark of shrubs, bushes and trees. Rabbits are herbivores and their digestive system has evolved to be extremely efficient, with the ability to eliminate indigestible fibre rapidly and ferment those fibres that are digestible. Due to their special digestive system, rabbits need a balanced diet with high levels of fibre to keep their gut healthy. A high fibre diet also encourages teeth grinding to keep their continually growing teeth in trim and to ensure that they stay healthy.

See the Supreme Original Russel Rabbit food range on pages 42-43

As foragers, rabbits must be fed twice a day, every day (once in the morning and once in the evening after the first has been finished). A good quality, wide-based metal food bowl is essential to keep the food dry and clean, and prevent the rabbit from tipping food on to the floor of the hutch. (See pages 54-55)

Sometimes selective feeding can occur, when your Rabbit only eats certain ingredients in a course mix diet; this could mean that they are missing out on vital nutrients they need to stay healthy. The veterinary recommended alternative is a monocomponent diet- with all the essential ingredients baked into an easy to eat biscuit. Always check the recommended daily allowances (on the front of the pack) are supplied by any food you buy. Always ensure that there is plenty of hay and water available.

See page 46 for the Supreme Science Selective monocomponent rabbit food

Exercise

Rabbits are naturally frightened of large open spaces and love playing in a run that contains playthings such as boxes, flowerpots, drainpipes and logs. Security and position are extremely important to avoid any harm or stress to your rabbit during its playtime. They like to keep themselves busy and, when allowed, spend the majority of their time running around and investigating their surroundings, so accessories can provide hours of enjoyment for your pet.

Check out the ‘Furry Fun’ accessories range from Supreme Petfoods on pages 52-55

Treating your Rabbit

Your rabbit will love a treat, and as long as they are good for them, there is no reason why you shouldn’t feed one or two occasionally. Try hiding some in the hutch to encourage them to forage, for example Carrot Cruncher treats which will help to grind their teeth.

See page 48-49 for the range of Supreme Treats

Handling Your Rabbit

The best way to pick up your rabbit is to talk to it as you approach on the same level. Crouch in front of the rabbit and let it come to you, presenting the back of your hand to sniff. Gently take hold of it under the shoulders with thumb and forefinger, and support the weight of the rabbit by scooping up the rump with the other hand. Place the rabbit on your lap or hold it to your chest and very slowly stand up.

Companionship

Your rabbit will enjoy having a companion, it is best to acquire littermates in order to avoid fighting. Single sex groups will normally be fine. However, females can be more temperamental during the breeding season. Males will live happily together but may become agitated and fight if in the proximity of a female. One female and one male will be happy together but will result in litters unless one of the pair is neutered. Rabbits should never be paired with guinea pigs, as rabbits are naturally dominant and may try to bully the guinea pigs or, even worse, attack them.

Common Illnesses

Dental Problems – rabbit’s teeth continue to grow throughout their life, at a rate of 2-3mm per week. Rabbits require a high fibre diet to ensure the teeth are evenly worn and to prevent overgrowth. If the teeth are not worn down, they grow incorrectly leading to discomfort, abscesses, anorexia, etc. Indication of dental problems may be salva around the mouth, on the chest or front paws, an inability to eat or teeth grinding. Ensure that the diet contains sufficient fibre and hay. (See pages 42, 45 & 46)

Flystrike – flies are attracted to rabbit droppings, either in the hut or around the rear end of the rabbit. Fly eggs will hatch into maggots and will initially feed on the droppings and will then burrow into the rabbit and eat its flesh, this results in discomfort, pain and, often death. Avoid flystrike by removing droppings regularly from the hut, grooming your rabbit daily and ensuring good ventilation to the hut, as this will prevent flies becoming attracted to, and then trapped in the hut. Spray Keep It Clean or AntiBAC+ in the hut, on bedding material and the environment to deter flies and eliminate bacteria (See pages 36-37 for more detail). In the event of an attack, seek veterinary advice immediately.

Snuffles/Pasteurella – this is a condition caused by bacteria and can be related to stress (such as high temperature, draughts, weaning etc.). The animal will develop cold-like symptoms, with a runny nose, breathing difficulties and discharge from the eyes. Snuffles can lead to more serious problems, such as pneumonia, head tilt and tooth root abscesses. Keep your hut well ventilated and at a fairly constant temperature (around 16°C). Avoid leaving damp bedding in the hut, keep stress to a minimum and spray the hut with AntiBAC+.

Gastro-intestinal Disorders – may be caused by such things as inappropriate diet, stress, the presence of parasites, etc. If your rabbit exhibits symptoms such as bloating, constipation or diarrhoea, or a combination of these, it is extremely important that rabbits are treated quickly during this period to prevent dehydration or the condition worsening. A rabbit’s health can deteriorate very quickly. Contact your vet for advice on treatment.

Myxomatosis – this is a disease transmitted by fleas, or from contact with other infected rabbits or objects. Symptoms are usually swollen eyelids and thick discharge from the eyes and nose. The rabbit will become very subdued and stop eating. This condition is usually fatal. Take your rabbit to the vet immediately if he shows any of these symptoms, and isolate him from any other rabbits. Remember vaccination of your rabbit can control strains of this disease.

Keeping the hutch clean, dry and regularly treated with Keep It Clean or AntiBAC+ should give your pet rabbit the best chance of a long and healthy life. (See page 51)

Always consult a vet if you have ANY reason for concern.
Guide to Guinea Pigs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin name</th>
<th>Cavia Porcellus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female:</td>
<td>Sow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male:</td>
<td>Boar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young:</td>
<td>Piglets</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Average 30-40 grams per day)</td>
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**History:** Guinea pigs (cavies) originate from South America where the Incas bred them for food. People in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia still keep guinea pigs, like chickens, for food. The Spanish introduced guinea pigs to Europe in the 16th Century after they conquered the Incas. Wild populations of guinea pigs still exist in South America in a range of habitats including grassland, swamps, forest and rocky areas. Guinea pigs have the Latin name Cavia Porcellus, which means “pig-like cavy”.

**Breeds:** Controlled breeding of guinea pigs has led to a wide variety of colours and textures of coats. Cavy colours are classed in 3 sections – Agouti (the hair has several different bands of colour), Self-coloured (one solid colour) and cavies with markings (combinations of colours in marks on the coat).
Looking After Your Guinea Pig

Living in a hutch allows your guinea pig to live outside and receive plenty of sunshine and fresh air every day. The minimum size for a good hutch is 3ft wide x 2ft deep x 18in high (91cm x 61cm x 45cm). It should be around 4-5 times the length of the guinea pig when it is stretched out. In wintertime guinea pigs should be housed indoors as the best temperature to keep them is between 18-26°C. The hutch should be placed in a position that is sheltered and out of direct sunlight. Extremes of temperature can cause stress to the animal, which may result in discomfort or illness. Place the hutch on bricks or legs to avoid becoming damp during wet weather. Ensure the roof is sloping, waterproofed and overhangs slightly to avoid poor drainage on the top surface. Always ensure hutch doors are locked to avoid accidental escape or access by predators, such as foxes.

It is important to have fresh safe bedding for your guinea pig to keep it clean and dry as well as warm and cozy at night. Hutches should be cleaned out on a regular basis. This is especially important in warmer weather in order to prevent flies being attracted to the hutch, as this may result in an infestation of maggots. In the wetter months, bedding can become damp and mouldy from extreme weather.

See the Supreme range of bedding and cleaning products on pages 50-51

Feeding Your Guinea Pig

In their natural habitat guinea pigs eat different types of vegetation. Domestic guinea pigs are also herbivorous (with the exception of placentophagy). They digest fibre more efficiently than rabbits do.

Guinea pigs need a balanced diet of specially formulated guinea pig food and hay daily. The guinea pig food must include Vitamin C as guinea pigs cannot generate their own and will fall ill without it. Hay in their diet provides fibre to aid digestion and helps to wear down their continuously growing teeth.

See the Supreme Original Gerty Guinea Pig food on page 43

As natural foragers, guinea pigs need feeding twice a day, every day (in the morning and in the evening). To limit the likelihood of selective feeding, ensure the first portion is finished before feeding the second. A good quality, wide-based metal food bowl is essential to keep the food dry and clean, and prevent the guinea pig from tipping the food on to the floor of the hutch (see pages 54). A water bottle will keep the water clean and fresh from soiling.

Sometimes selective feeding can occur with your animal. This is when the Guinea Pig will only eat certain ingredients in a course mix diet, therefore missing out on vital nutrients. To solve this problem, feed a mono component diet, with all the ingredients in easy to eat biscuits. Always check the recommended daily allowances (on the front of the pack) are supplied by any food you buy.

See the Supreme Science Selective range on page 46

Treating your Guinea Pig

Your guinea pig will love a treat, and as long as they are good for them, there is no reason why you shouldn’t feed one or two occasionally. Try hiding some in the hutch to encourage them to forage, for example Forest Fruit treats which will also help to grind their teeth.

See page 48-49 for the range of Supreme Guinea Pig Treats

Exercise

Guinea pigs are naturally frightened of large, open spaces but love playing in a run that contains playthings, such as boxes, flowerpots, drainpipes and logs as they make great hiding places and excellent tunnels. It only takes a few items to create an exciting environment for them. Security and position are extremely important to avoid any harm or stress to your guinea pig during its playtime.

A guinea pig’s natural instinct is to forage, explore and socialise. Mealtime is always over too quickly and this could mean that your guinea pig might get bored. Hide food in different places and your guinea pig will be forced to find its food – and this helps to prevent it from becoming bored. Piles of logs (natural wood – willow, beech, hazel or apple) make platforms for them to explore or rest under. Guinea pigs will chew the wood and this will help keep their teeth in trim.

Check out the ‘Furry Fun’ accessories range from Supreme Petfoods on pages 52-55

Handling Your Guinea Pig

The best way to pick up your guinea pig is to talk to it as you approach on the same level. Crouch in front of your pet and let it come to you, presenting the back of your hand for it to sniff. Gently place your hand across its shoulders with the thumb behind the front legs on one side. Slowly lift the guinea pig and place your other hand under its rump and then place it on your lap or hold it to your chest and very slowly stand up.

Companionship

Your guinea pig will love having a companion, but you must have a hutch which is large enough to accommodate more than one guinea pig. It is best to acquire littermates in order to avoid fighting. Female pairs or groups will be fine. Males will live happily together but may become agitated if in the vicinity of females. Females and males will be happy together but will result in litters unless one of the pair is neutered. Guinea pigs should never be paired with rabbits, as rabbits are naturally dominant and may try to bully the guinea pig.

Common Illnesses

Guinea pigs are generally Hardy animals, but there are some ailments that can befall them:

Dental Problems – as with all rodents, guinea pigs’ teeth continue to grow throughout their life. Guinea pigs require a high fibre diet to ensure the teeth are evenly worn and to prevent overgrowth. If the teeth are not worn, they grow incorrectly, leading to discomfort, abscesses, anorexia etc. Indication of dental problems may be saliva around the mouth, chest or front paws, and an inability to eat or teeth grinding. Ensure the diet contains sufficient fibre and hay is always available (see pages 43, 45 & 46). Seek veterinary advice if you are at all concerned.

Abscesses – can be caused during knocks or fights, or even by food that is sharp and has injured the mouth. You will be able to feel a hard lump. It is best to move the guinea pig into an area of its own and take him to the vet as soon as possible, so the abscess can be treated.

Skin Complaints – Guinea pigs are prone to skin conditions. Perhaps the most common is mange. Mange is caused by a little mite that burrows into the skin surface. You will notice little raised spots on the skin that can become “scurfy”. Your guinea pig will scratch these itchy areas which will develop scabs and cause its hair to fall out. It is important that you take your guinea pig to the vet for treatment.

Hypovitaminosis C or ‘scurvy’ – Vitamin C is essential for building and repairing collagen. Collagen fibres form the basis of bones, cartilage, tendons, muscles and blood vessels. Vitamin C is also essential for many other processes in the body. Guinea pigs are not able to produce Vitamin C themselves and therefore need vitamin C in their diet. A lack of Vitamin C can lead to lameness, loss of teeth, rough coat, alopecia and anorexia. It is important to take your guinea pig to the vet for treatment as soon as any of these symptoms occur.

Keeping the hutch clean, dry and regularly treated with Keep It Clean or AntiBAC+ should give your pet guinea pig the best chance of a long and healthy life. (See page 51)

Always consult a vet if you have ANY reason for concern.
Guide to Hamsters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin name</th>
<th>Mesocricetus Auratus</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Sow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Boar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>Pups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life span</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weaning age</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>Omnivorous (ave 5-10 grams per day)</td>
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**History:** Hamsters belong to the rodent family. The name “hamster” is derived from the German word “hamstern” which means “to hoard”. Wild hamsters live in hot areas of Central Asia. To avoid the heat of the day hamsters live in burrows and are nocturnal. In the cool of the evening and during the night hamsters will search for food - and can travel up to 8 miles in one night. They collect food in their cheek pouches and return to their burrows and empty the cheek pouches into their food store. They are able to carry up to half their body weight in their pouches. Hamsters have the latin name Mesocricetus auratus which means “golden hair”.

**Breeds:** There are over 20 different breeds of hamsters, each with their own individual markings and colours. The dwarf hamsters (Russian, Chinese and Roborovski) are smaller in stature. Some of them are very sociable, and will enjoy being kept in pairs or in groups (remember to keep them in single sex pairs or groups if you don’t want to breed from them). Russian hamsters are mainly white, grey and brown in colour, and the Roborovski hamster is always brown. The Chinese hamster has a greyish brown coat, with a dark stripe down its back.
Looking After Your Hamster

Hamsters can be housed in a wire cage with a firm plastic base, a plastic hamster home or an adapted aquarium (vivarium) with a well-ventilated cover. Wooden cages should not be used as hamsters can chew their way out! The most important thing to remember is that a hamster home can never be too big — they love to explore and exercise. Multi-level cages are a good idea as they add interest to the hamster’s environment — but be careful with plastic tubes as the larger Syrian hamsters may get stuck. The hamster home must always have a place for your hamster to rest and hide, and another area for play, exercise and feeding.

Keeping your hamster warm and cosy is very important. You need bedding that is absorbent which makes cleaning easier for you. Do not use bedding that is synthetic as this could harm your hamster if he ate it and might block his cheek pouches, food pipe or gut.

See the Supreme range of bedding and cleaning products on pages 50-51

Hamsters must always be kept indoors and careful thought should be given to where your hamster’s home is situated. The temperature in the room should be constant, away from direct sunlight and draughts, and away from constant noise (e.g. a freezer). Because they have sensitive hearing they should never be placed near a television, CD player, Hi-Fi, etc.

Feeding Your Hamster

In their natural habitat, hamsters eat a range of grasses, wind-blown seeds and grain. Hamsters are often mistaken as herbivores, but they are omnivores and need protein in their diet to keep them healthy. Their slow eating would make them easy targets in the wild, so they would normally bring their food back to their burrow to eat it in the safety of their own home. This also allows them to hoard spare food, in case it becomes difficult to find food at a later date. Hamsters need feeding every day. As they are nocturnal, an evening feed is better for them. They will normally wake in the evening at feeding time, and will be happy to play with you once they have been fed. A good quality wide-based metal bowl (not plastic which they might chew) is essential to keep their food clean and dry (see page 54). These should be cleaned after every use.

You should try to ensure that your hamster eats all its food from a very young age by calculating the correct daily requirement. However, if you notice that your hamster tends to leave some of the ingredients in coarse mixes, reduce the amount you give it until it is eating it all. Then slowly increase the amount again to the recommended daily allowance. Always check the recommended daily allowances (on the front of the pack) are supplied by any food you buy. Always ensure there is fresh drinking water available.

See the Supreme Original Harry Hamster food on page 44

Treating Your Hamster

Your hamster will love a treat, and as long as they are good for them, there is no reason why you shouldn’t feed one or two occasionally. Try hiding some in the hutch to encourage them to forage, for example Harry Yippee treats with carrot, apple and maize which they love, and which are good for their constantly growing teeth.

See page 48-49 for Supreme Hamster Treats

Exercise

It is extremely important that your hamster has the opportunity to exercise every day. If you provide a wheel for your hamster to play in, it MUST be big enough so that the hamster does not have to bend its back when it is inside, and must have a solid floor rather than rungs as these can cause injuries to the feet. Although hamsters sleep during the day, they are really energetic and will exercise for 3-4 hours at night. Place objects like tubes, tunnels and small cardboard boxes in the cage for it to play with. Place twigs of willow, beach or hazel in the cage for it to climb and gnaw on. It only takes a few items to create an exciting environment for them to be in.

A hamster’s natural instinct is to forage and explore. Mealtime is always over too quickly and this could mean that your hamster will get bored. By hiding food and the occasional treat in different areas of the animal’s cage, your hamster will be forced to hunt for his food — this will keep him occupied for many happy hours.

Check out the ‘Furry Fun’ accessories range from Supreme Petfoods pages 52-55

Handling Your Hamster

Before attempting handling, make sure that your hamster is fully awake and alert. Try not to wake your hamster suddenly if it is asleep. Always approach it slowly and gently. Place a closed fist in front of your pet, and allow it to approach and sniff you. Hamsters rely on olfactory cues (smells) rather than sound and, therefore, smell is important so they can detect what is approaching. If your hamster is confident and appears interested, slowly unclench your fist and offer your palm. It may well crawl on to your hand or you can gently scoop it up. Cup it in the palms of your two hands to ensure that it is safe and won’t be dropped. Lift it up slowly, as picking it up too quickly would be the equivalent of going up the Empire State Building in 3 seconds! To ensure it is safe at all times you should hold it over your lap or close to your chest. Never scruff a hamster to pick it up, as this can put immense pressure on the head region possibly resulting in a prolapsed eye.

Companionship

Some dwarf Hamsters in the wild live in large colonies with a well-structured hierarchy and are happy in a pair or a group; e.g. the Roborovski and Campbell dwarf Hamsters are less aggressive and more social towards cage mates than the Russian hamster or Chinese hamster, who should both be kept solitary. Syrian or Golden hamsters are solitary and must be kept alone. If you are intending to have more than one hamster, you must have a cage which is large enough. If you are not sure about the breed of dwarf hamster you have, or it is a mixed breed, then it’s best to keep it solitary to prevent fighting and deadly accidents. It is best to acquire littermates in order to avoid fighting.

Common Illnesses

Hamsters do not often become ill but, because of their size, they can deteriorate very quickly if they do become ill.

Diarrhoea – overfeeding with green food is a common cause of diarrhoea. You should stop feeding green food immediately if your hamster has diarrhoea and feed it only a good quality hamster mix (see page 44). If the diarrhoea persists, your hamster should be taken to the vet.

Constipation – conversely, if there is a lack of droppings in the cage and your hamster has a hunched appearance, it may have constipation. Feeding with a small amount of green vegetables may relieve your hamster, but if there is no improvement it should be taken to the vet.

Wet Tail – is often confused with diarrhoea, but is a bacterial infection that can cause extreme diarrhoea, with a distinctive smell. It is mostly seen in young hamsters (3 - 8 weeks old). The anus and tail area of the hamster appear wet and sticky. The hamster may appear hunched up as if it is in pain. Hamsters with wet tail should be isolated from other hamsters as it is highly infectious. You must wash your hands thoroughly or clean with AntiBAC+ before you handle any other hamster. In any case, clean the cage with AntiBAC+ and seek veterinary treatment immediately.

Overgrown Teeth – as hamsters’ teeth continue to grow throughout their life, hamsters need to be provided with hard material to gnaw. Special wood gnaws can be purchased from pet shops to encourage gnawing, or feed Harry Hamster Yippee Treats (see page 48). If there is a chipped tooth, or their teeth do not meet properly, this may cause overgrowth and pain, and your hamster will find it difficult to eat.

Overgrown Nails – nails can also become overgrown and should be trimmed by a vet to ensure your hamster is comfortable.

Always consult a vet if you have ANY reason for concern.
Guide to Gerbils

**Latin name**: Meriones Unguiculatus

**Female**: Sow

**Male**: Boar

**Young**: Pups

**Life span**: 3-5 years

**Litter size**: 3-10 pups

**Birth weight**: 1-3gms

**Eyes open**: 17 days

**Gestation period**: 24-26 days

**Average weight**: Male 60gms  Female 50gms

**Sexual maturity**: Male & Female 10-12 weeks

**Weaning age**: 21-24 days

**Diet**: Omnivorous (average 5-10 grams per day)

**History**: In the wild, Mongolian gerbils live in the desert where there is little vegetation, low rainfall and temperatures that fluctuate enormously between Summer and Winter, and day and night. The survival of gerbils is down to their burrowing instincts. Burrowing allows them to protect themselves from the extremes in temperature as, under the soil, temperatures remain constant. Gerbil burrows in the wild are a complex network of tunnels, with nests and food storage chambers which allow the gerbil to stay underground for long periods of time. The gerbil species has evolved to need only limited food and water. Their long hind legs allow them to cover large distances in a harsh habitat in order to collect food. In addition, their bodies require little water as they do not sweat and they re-absorb their liquid intake producing highly concentrated urine and dry faeces. The Latin name for gerbils is “Meriones unguiculatus” which means “clawed warrior”.

**Breeds**: Gerbils have only been domesticated for the last 30 years so there has not yet been an opportunity for extensive development of coloured varieties. The Golden Agouti is the most common gerbil found in pet shops and is a sandy colour with a dark stripe down the spine and tail. Other varieties include Albino, Black, Cinnamon, White Spot, Dark Tailed White, Dove and Argenté.
Looking After Your Gerbil

Gerbils may be kept in a wire cage with a solid plastic base, but the best option is to construct a 'gerbilarium' (an aquarium with a well ventilated cover). Never keep them in a wooden hutch as they will gnaw their way out. A good cage will be two tiered and have at least two compartments – one for the day and one to nest and hide in at night. As gerbils are kept in pairs or groups the cage can never be too large. Cages must be cleaned out regularly to eliminate odours, germs and bacteria. Natural barley straw is ideal warm bedding for your Gerbil.

They need to be kept indoors and careful thought must be given to where your gerbils’ cage will be kept. The temperature in the room should be constant, away from direct sunlight and draughts, and out of reach of any other pets.

Gerbils love to have a dust bath, so there must be room for this also. Place some fine grained absorbent sand into a box or bowl, and let your gerbils roll around and flip over. They will thoroughly enjoy themselves and the sand will help to keep their coats healthy by removing excess oils. Supreme Charlie Chinchilla Bathing Sand is ideal for this. Building sand is too hard and will damage their fur and irritate the skin.

See the Supreme range of bedding and cleaning products on pages 50-51

Feeding Your Gerbil

In their natural habitat, gerbils eat a selection of wind blown seeds, grain and grasses. Gerbils are often mistaken as herbivores, but they are omnivores and do need good quality protein in their diet to keep them healthy. Ensure there is fresh drinking water available at all times.

They also have continuously-growing teeth so need to gnaw to help wear down their teeth. Gerbils are natural foragers so their daily allowance should be split into two portions, one in the morning and one in the evening. To limit the likelihood of selective feeding, ensure that the first portion is finished before feeding the second. Fresh water should always be available. Their diets should provide just the right amount of protein, whilst remaining low in fat. Always check the recommended daily allowances (on the front of the pack) are supplied by any food you buy.

See the Supreme Original Gerri Gerbil food on page 44

Treating Your Gerbil

Your gerbil will love a treat, and as long as they are good for them, there is no reason why you shouldn’t feed one or two occasionally. Try hiding some in the hutch to encourage them to forage, for example Root n’ Fruit Nibbles with carrot, apple and raisins which they love, and which are good for their constantly growing teeth.

See page 48 & 49 for the Supreme Treats range

Exercise

Gerbils like to keep themselves busy and, when allowed, spend the majority of their time running around, digging tunnels and investigating their surroundings. Provide plenty of substrate so they can ‘hide’ underground.

It only takes a few items to create an exciting playground for your pet. Gerbils explore around the edge (and hiding places) first, rather than the middle of the area or run. Place objects like tubes, tunnels, untreated wicker baskets and boxes in the run for them to play with. A thick layer of sawdust, wood shavings or other substrate is needed for burrowing and digging tunnels. Gerbils will chew on available natural wood and this will help keep their teeth in trim. By hiding food and the occasional treat in different areas of the animals’ cage, your gerbils will be forced to forage for their food – this will keep them occupied for many happy hours and prevent boredom.

Check out the ‘Furry Fun’ accessories range from Supreme Petfoods on pages 52-55

Handling Your Gerbil

Always approach calmly and, once you are sure your pet is awake, slowly place a closed fist in front of it and allow it to approach. If your gerbil is confident and appears interested, slowly unclench your fist and open your hand. It may well crawl on to the palm of your hand or you can gently scoop it up. If it appears hesitant, you could gently hold the base of its tail, near its body, and lift up, placing its feet on the palm of your other hand (never grab hold of the end of its tail as gerbils can shed the skin to escape, and will be frightened next time you approach).

Companionship

Gerbils in the wild live in large colonies. They are sociable animals and can be truly unhappy if kept in solitude. There should be no problems keeping gerbils together if the following rules are followed. It is best to acquire littermates in order to avoid fighting. Pairs or groups of males or females will be fine if they are from the same litter. They may accept a gerbil from a different litter, but they may fight. Females and males will be happy together but will result in litters.

Common Illnesses

Dental Problems – As with all rodents, gerbil’s teeth continue to grow throughout their life. Should your gerbil be injured and a tooth become misaligned, the opposite tooth will grow as it has nothing opposing it on which to grind. Gerbils require fibre in their diet and gnawing ensures their teeth are evenly worn, preventing overgrowth. Overgrown teeth can cause a number of problems including abscesses and inability to eat. Ensure there is sufficient fibre in the diet or feed ‘gnaw’ treats. (See pages 48-49)

Diarrhoea – Diarrhoea can have several causes including bacteria, parasites and neoplasia. The most common bacterial enteritis is Tyzzer’s disease (see later in this section). Other causes are Salmonella and E. Coli bacteria or coccidiosis or pin- and tapeworms. Take your gerbil to the vet immediately as loss of fluid through diarrhoea can be life threatening.

Colds – Gerbils can catch colds from humans so, if you have a cold, you should keep the handling of your gerbil and its food to the minimum. Your gerbil will have a runny nose and sneeze if he has a cold and should be kept in a warm room. Isolate the affected gerbil from the rest of the group as colds can spread through colonies. Take him to the vet if the condition has not cleared in two to three days, or if you have any concerns at all.

Tyzzer’s Disease – This is a very serious condition and your gerbil will have diarrhoea, look tired and weak and will lose his appetite. Wearings are especially sensitive to this disease. Take your gerbil to the vet immediately if your gerbil has these symptoms, as this disease is often fatal. Good hygiene in the gerbilarium and using good quality bedding such as Natural Barley Straw or CareFresh (see page 50) and burrowing material will help prevent this disease.

Always consult a vet if you have ANY reason for concern.
Guide to Rats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin name</th>
<th>Rattus Norvegicus (Brown or Norwegian Rat)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female:</td>
<td>Doe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male:</td>
<td>Buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young:</td>
<td>Pups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life span:</td>
<td>2-4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter size:</td>
<td>6-16 pups or kittens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth weight:</td>
<td>5-7gms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eyes open:</td>
<td>10-16 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestation period:</td>
<td>20-22 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average weight:</td>
<td>Male &amp; Female 400-800gms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual maturity:</td>
<td>Male &amp; Female 6-10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning age:</td>
<td>3-4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>Omnivorous (average 20-25 grams per day)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**History:** Rats belong to the rodent family. There are over 80 different species of rat throughout the world. The most common, black and brown rats are thought to have originated from Asia. They managed to stow away in merchant ships and other means of transport, which carried them across the world. It is thought that the black rat reached Europe in the 4th Century and caused outbreaks of the Plague in the 6th and 7th Centuries. The famous spread of the black death (or Bubonic Plague) in the 1300s earned the rat its unsavoury reputation. However, the rats were merely the hosts of fleas that actually spread the disease. The Latin name Rattus Norvegicus means Norwegian rat. Today rats have been recruited in the battle against landmines in Africa. "Aposos" hero rats save lives, clearing mines and detecting TB all for a peanut and a lump of banana. Learn more by visiting Exmoor Zoo.

**Breeds:** There are many different coloured rats, with varying markings and coat types. The most common colours include black, mink, champagne and albino. The “hooded” pattern is quite common, i.e: the coat is white and the face and head are coloured. There are 3 different coat types that can be combined with any pattern or colour – smooth haired, rex (which has curly hair and whiskers) and hairless rat.
Looking After Your Rat

Rats can be housed in a wire cage with a plastic base, a plastic rat home or a large vivarium with a well-ventilated cover. Wooden cages should not be used as rats will chew their way out. The important thing to remember is that a rat home can never be too big, as they love to explore and exercise. Multi-level cages are a good idea as they add interest for the rat.

Rats are best kept indoors and careful thought should be given to where your rat’s home is situated. The temperature in the room should be constant, away from direct sunlight and draughts, and out of the reach of any other pets. A rat’s hearing is extremely sensitive so he should be situated away from loud noises such as a stereo or washing machine.

Cages should be cleaned out on a regular basis. This is especially important in warmer weather to reduce odours and in the winter to ensure your rat is clean and cosy. You need bedding that is absorbent which makes cleaning easier for you. Untreated, unthreshed straw should not be used as it can scratch your pet. Also recommended is to provide bedding that is dust extracted, as this reduces irritation to the eyes, nose and respiratory system. (See pages 50-51)

Feeding Your Rat

In their natural habitat rats will scavenge for their food and will eat almost anything. Rats are omnivores and need protein to keep them in good condition. As natural foragers, their daily allowance should be split into two portions, one in the morning and one in the evening. To limit the likelihood of selective feeding, ensure that the first portion is finished before feeding the second. It is not recommended to feed your rat human food, as this may be high in calories, sugary or contain too much fat. You must check where your rat hoards food and remove any old and stale food from those areas and always ensure there is fresh drinking water available.

See Supreme’s Reggie Rat Original food on page 44

Sometimes selective feeding can occur, when your rat only eats certain ingredients in a course mix diet; this could mean that it is missing out on vital nutrients it needs to stay healthy. The alternative is a mono component diet where all the essential ingredients are available in an easy to eat biscuit. Always check the recommended daily allowances (on the front of the pack) are supplied by any food you buy.

See the Supreme Science Selective range of monocomponent food on page 46

Treating Your Rat

Rats will love a treat, and as long as they are good for them, there is no reason why you shouldn’t occasionally feed one or two. Try hiding some in the cage to encourage them to forage, for example Reggie Rat Chick n’ Chips bursting with the flavours of chicken and potato which they love, and which will help to wear down their constantly growing teeth.

See page 48 & 49 for the Supreme Treats range

Exercise

You need to provide a large, secure run for daily exercise. This can be free-standing or attached to the cage. An idea is to use a large cardboard box and put bedding on the bottom. Put in some toilet roll tubes and, as rats also love climbing, you can hang up a piece of sisal rope. Hide a piece of apple wood for it to gnaw and you will see how much fun it can have in its own exercise yard. However, you should always keep an eye on it whilst it is in its play area.

If you provide a wheel in the cage so your rat can exercise, make sure that it is big enough. Your pet must not have to bend its back whilst inside. Also ensure that it has a solid floor and not rungs as they can cause injuries to the feet and tail. Although rats often sleep during the day, they are really energetic and will exercise for 3-4 hours a night, and will enjoy spending the evenings with you!

Check out the ‘Furry Fun’ accessories range from Supreme Petfoods on pages 52-55

Handling Your Rat

Before attempting to handle your rat, make sure it is awake and alert or it might be scared and try to bite you. Talking to your rat makes it aware that you are close by and wanting to socialise. Always approach your rat calmly and gently. Once your rat knows you are near, place a closed fist in front of it and allow it to approach. If it is confident and appears interested, slowly unclench your fist and open your hand to allow it to crawl on to your palm. If it does not approach you, you can grasp the rat around the shoulders, with your thumb just behind the front leg and supporting the hindfeet with the other hand if necessary. Never pick a rat up by its tail.

Companionship

Rats are very social animals and will become unhappy if left alone, so keeping them in pairs or single-sex groups is best. Males or females from the same litter will get on extremely well and be great company for each other. Rats enjoy “play-fighting”, but if you introduce an older rat to another rat, they may fight seriously and cause injury. You can keep a male and female rat together but to prevent a litter you should have the male neutered.

Common Illnesses

Mites – You can detect the presence of mites if you notice your rat itching, especially around the neck, shoulders and ears. Scratching can damage the skin, so be sure not to confuse scratches with injuries caused by fighting with cage mates, or a fungal infection. A veterinarian can detect the cause and prescribe a treatment.

Respiratory disease - Among the most common problems seen in rats are diseases of their respiratory tract. Typical signs include dyspnoea, “ratting” breathing sounds, sniffing, sneezing, nasal discharge and even ‘red tears’. General signs of illness such as lethargy, weight loss and ruffled coat are also present. In most cases of rhinitis, bronchitis and pneumonia more than one infectious agent may be responsible for the respiratory problems. Take your rat to the vet with the first signs of respiratory disease to try and prevent chronic problems.

Overgrown Teeth – Rats’ teeth continue to grow throughout their life. Rats need to gnaw to keep their teeth in trim. If there is a chipped tooth, or their teeth do not meet properly, this may cause overgrown teeth and they must be trimmed by your vet.

Overgrown Nails – Nails can also become overgrown and should be trimmed by a vet to ensure your rat is comfortable.

Always consult a vet if you have ANY reason for concern.
Guide to Chinchillas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin name</th>
<th>Chinchilla Lanigera</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female:</td>
<td>Doe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male:</td>
<td>Buck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young:</td>
<td>Kits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life span:</td>
<td>10-20 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Litter size:</td>
<td>1-6 kits (average 2)</td>
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<td>Birth weight:</td>
<td>30-40gms (precocious offspring)</td>
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<td>Eyes open:</td>
<td>at birth</td>
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<td>Gestation period:</td>
<td>111-113 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average weight:</td>
<td>Male 400-500gms Female 400-600gms</td>
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<td>Sexual maturity:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weaning age:</td>
<td>8-10 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>Herbivorous (30-40gms per day)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**History:** Spanish pioneers discovered the chinchilla in the 16th Century when they were kept and used by the native Incas for food and clothing. Chinchillas were later brought to Europe where their pelts became fashionable and widely used for clothing. This demand for chinchilla pelts almost made them extinct but, fortunately, in the early 20th Century, a miner called Mathias F Chapman captured 11 chinchillas and bred them in captivity, servicing the demand of the fur trade, but also securing survival of the species. The name Chinchilla means “little chinta”.

**Breeds:** There are two types of chinchilla: The Chinchilla Lanigera – with a pointed nose and angular face and the Chinchilla Brevicaudata – that is larger than the lanigera with thicker neck and shoulders but a shorter tail. All chinchillas have thick, dense fur. Through selective breeding, there is a wide range of coat colours. These include Silver, White, Platinum, Black Velvet, Sapphire, Rose/Apricot, Chocolate Brown and Albino.
Looking After Your Chinchilla

In captivity most chinchillas show activity during the day as well as in the evening or at night. They require a large cage constructed from wood and mesh wire that includes a climbing area, a sleeping box and a daily (fresh) sand bath. The quality of the sand is vital to ensure their skin is not irritated and the fur is not damaged. (See page 51, Supreme Charlie Chinchilla Bathing Sand). Chinchilla's love climbing and jumping and a multi level cage is most suitable.

Chinchillas in the wild are accustomed to low humidity and sharp variations in temperature during day and night. However, high temperatures and high humidity should be avoided- the optimal environmental temperature range is between 16°C and 21°C (60°F-70°F) and optimal humidity between 40-50%. Chinchillas can do well at 0°C, if it's dry, they are free of drafts and if they are accustomed to it. At temperatures above 28°C they can be prone to heat stroke.

Feeding Your Chinchilla

They have a very sensitive digestive system that has evolved through the frugal high fibre diet of grasses, fruits, leaves, bark, roots, stems and insides of cacti. Chinchillas are herbivores and need lots of fibre so hay should be available to your chinchilla at all times. This is essential to keep the digestive system healthy and also to help wear down their continually-growing teeth (see page 45). The chinchilla diet must be very low in fat and they should never have sunflower seeds or peanuts due to the high fat content. They can easily become overweight if they have too much fat and, over the long term, it can be fatal. As natural foragers, they should be fed twice a day, and to limit the possibility of selective feeding, the second portion should not be fed until the first is finished. They do not like a sudden change of diet – which may lead to a decrease in their food intake and/or can lead to dysbacteriosis.

See the Supreme Original Charlie Chinchilla food on pages 44-45

Sometimes selective feeding can occur, when your Chinchilla only eats certain ingredients in their course mix diet; this could mean that it is missing out on vital nutrients it needs to stay healthy. The alternative is a mono component diet where all the essential ingredients are available in an easy to eat biscuit. Always check the recommended daily allowances (on the front of the pack) are supplied by any food you buy.

See the Supreme Science Selective range on pages 46-47

Treating Your Chinchilla

Chinchillas love a treat, and as long as they are good for them, there is no reason why you shouldn't occasionally feed one or two. Try hiding some in the cage to encourage them to forage, for example Charlie Chinchilla Cookie treats- special low fat crispy nuggets made with carrot, apple or maize, which they love, and which will help to wear down their constantly growing teeth. Other more natural treats include dandelion leaves, endive, raisins, dried apple, little pieces of orange and hazelnuts but never give more than a teaspoon per day and preferably less! Too many treats can easily lead to gastric upset.

See pages 48-49 for the Supreme Treats range

Exercise

Your chinchillas will love running around and playing. They will love safe branches to climb on and gnaw, as well as platforms. You can make some tunnels out of drainpipes or terracotta chimney liners. Flower pots are great for hiding and exploring and cardboard or wooden boxes give them something to hide in that they can chew as well. Hide some small pieces of food or treats in their play area to encourage foraging. If you have a “chinchilla-proof” room, they will love this large space to explore and run around in.

Check out the ‘Furry Fun’ accessories range from Supreme Petfoods on pages 52-55

Handling Your Chinchilla

Always approach your chinchilla on the same level. Crouch in front of it and let it come to you, presenting the back of your hand for it to sniff. When you open your hand a tame chinchilla will most likely climb on your hand and you can hold it temporarily around the base of his tail with one hand and support it's body weight with your other hand while lifting it up and have it rest on your arm or against your body. A young chinchilla can be 'scooped up' in your hands. Never grasp the fur where the tail connects to the body or you will have a handful of fur and a damaged coat (See fur-slip in this section) and never grasp the tip of the tail as this can come off when the chinchilla struggles. Be careful not to squeeze them too tightly because their ribs are very easily broken. Gently place your chinchilla on to your lap or hold against your chest. Never pick it up by its tail.

Social behaviour and Companionship

Chinchillas are social creatures that should be housed in single-sex groups, polygamous groups (1 male per 5 females) or in pairs. Chinchillas can easily habituate to humans when handled frequently. When frightened they will try to run rather than bite. However they are capable of biting when annoyed, and in addition (and more likely) may urinate.

Common Illnesses

Eye Problems – Extensive sand bathing can cause eye irritation without clinical signs of respiratory problems. Other causes are dental problems, inadequate ventilation and poor bedding. To treat/prevent this condition limit sand bathing to a session of 15-30 minutes per day and use suitable chinchilla bathing sand (see page 51). Improve ventilation and provide clean, dust-free bedding (see page 50).

Ear Problems – If your chinchilla is pawing its ears, or you notice discharge, or there is a lack of balance and direction, you should take your chinchilla to the vet. Once home, do not allow your chinchilla to have a dust bath until it is well again.

Runny Nose – Discharge from the nose may mean that your chinchilla has a cold. Keeping it warm and ensuring that it drinks a lot of fresh water should clear the problem. If the condition deteriorates, take your chinchilla to the vet.

Mouth Problems – Chinchillas' teeth grow continuously throughout their life. It is very important to ensure that chinchillas always have something to chew and gnaw on to help wear down their teeth, for example, fruit “gnaws” and specially formulated treats (see pages 48-49 & 52-53). If teeth become overgrown, the chinchilla may be unable to eat properly so it may lose weight and become weak and, therefore, more susceptible to illness. Dental disease is common in captive chinchillas and can be recognized by excessive salivation, difficulty eating and weight loss. It is necessary to take your chinchilla to the vet to have his teeth trimmed if they have become overgrown. Always ensure that there is sufficient fibre in the diet. (See pages 44-45 & 46-47 for high fibre diets)

Coat Condition – Chinchillas have dense fur and there are very few instances of mites or other parasites. The exception is a fungus (dermatophytosis). The fur can look limp and messy and, in some cases, the whiskers break. You will need to take your chinchilla to the vet who will probably prescribe a fungicidal powder to put into your chinchilla’s dust bath.

Fur-slip – Whenever frightened or stressed or handled roughly a chinchilla can shed patches of fur, also called ‘fur-slip’. A clean, smooth area of skin is left: it can take up to 8 weeks before the skin is covered with fur again and it can take months before the patches become indistinguishable from the rest of the coat.

Pneumonia – If your chinchilla is wheezey, finds it difficult to breathe or has a runny nose, it may have a chest infection or pneumonia. You need to take your chinchilla to the vet immediately as pneumonia puts a lot of stress on their bodies and can be fatal.

Constipation – Constipation is often caused by stress, a change in diet, fur chewing, or lack of water. If your chinchilla has constipation you will often notice a lack of droppings and that he looks tired and bloated. You can help relieve this by ensuring that there is plenty of fresh water and hay available. Also ensure that he is getting enough exercise. If necessary, offer the dust bath more frequently. If you are unhappy, or there is a sudden swelling of the chinchilla’s abdomen contact your vet immediately.

Diarrhoea – Diarrhoea is quite common. It is usually an indicator that the chinchilla (especially a young one) has over-eaten or that it has eaten bad hay or food. This condition can also be caused by stress, a sudden change in diet, a lack of fibre in the diet, or too much green food. Your vet will be able to advise on treatment.

Always consult a vet if you have ANY reason for concern.
Guide to Ferrets

History: Ferrets are related to mink and weasels, and are from the family called "Mustelids". Domesticated ferrets have the Latin name "Mustela Putorius Furo" (bad smelling weasel). In 3000BC ferrets were first domesticated by the Ancient Egyptians. It wasn't until the 1980's that ferrets became popular as pets. They were introduced in the 10th century to Europe as working ferrets. There are now no wild ferrets left in the world.

Breeds: Originally there were two ferret coat colours (albino & sable), but nowadays there are a wide variety of colours, patterns and markings. The eight most common colours are:

1. Albino (white coat with red eyes)
2. Sable (dark brown body, black feet, masked face)
3. Dark Eyed White (all white, with dark eyes)
4. Black (black coat, no pattern)
5. Topaz (light taupe colour)
6. Champagne (golden in colour)
7. Siamese/Chocolate (lighter colour of sable, with brown feet)
8. Red (mahogany coloured)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin name</th>
<th>Mustela Putorius Furo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female:</td>
<td>Jill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male:</td>
<td>Hob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young:</td>
<td>Kits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Span:</td>
<td>5-11 years (domesticated)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Litter size:</td>
<td>5-13 Kits (average 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth weight:</td>
<td>8-10 gms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes open:</td>
<td>From four weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestation Period:</td>
<td>38-44 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Weight:</td>
<td>male 700-2000 gms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>female 600-900 gms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Maturity:</td>
<td>male 5-9 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>female - spring after birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning age:</td>
<td>6-8 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinations:</td>
<td>Canine Distemper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet</td>
<td>Carnivorous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(average 40-60gms per day)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Looking After Your Ferret

It is important that any housing you may purchase for your ferret is escape proof, easy to clean, has a separate sleeping area, and enough room for your ferret to exercise, a good quality water bottle and food bowl in an easily accessible place. Outside it is acceptable for a ferret (or two ferrets that are happy living in the same area together) to be housed in a very large rabbit hutch, provided that they are given the opportunity to exercise by walking on a lead or allowed access to a large room in the house. It is acceptable for ferrets to be housed in an escape proof shed with a run attached and sufficient toys. If you were thinking about having an inside cage for your ferret/s then a large rat cage, a tall chinchilla cage, or a cage specifically made for ferrets would be acceptable. Also a litter tray must be available and should be emptied on a daily basis to prevent odour build up and attraction of pests. In the hutch or enclosure, use dust extracted bedding material such as Russel Bedding, or Supreme Science Carefresh to prevent respiratory or skin problems.

See the Supreme range of bedding and cleaning products on pages 50-51

Feeding Your Ferret

Ferrets are obligate carnivores and require daily high levels of dietary protein and fat to develop strong muscles, healthy bones and to prevent illness. They have a negligible need for carbohydrate and fibre as they synthesise most of their glucose requirements – reducing the need for a dietary source. Ferrets feed throughout the day eating small frequent meals, this is due to the fact that they have an extremely short digestive tract and food passes through within 3-4 hours. The average ferret will eat 5-7% of its body weight on a daily basis; this is about 50-75 grams of food for a ferret weighing 1 kg. These are approximate levels and will differ from animal to animal and according to life stage. Ferrets will require larger amounts during growth, gestation and reproduction. Reproducing females require a minimum of 30% protein from their diet, and kits require high levels of protein and fat throughout their growth phase. Feed levels may drop during later life and should be adjusted based on intake, demand and physiological changes, such as weight gain. Feeding a complete dried food (such as Supreme Science Selective Ferret) provides all the nutritional requirements your ferret needs. Feeding fresh food requires supplementation of vitamins and minerals and may result in deficiency or more commonly toxicity, resulting in a range of avoidable illnesses and conditions. Always check the recommended daily allowances (on the front of the pack) are supplied by any food you buy. Always ensure that fresh water is available at all times, as eating dried food will often lead to higher demands for water on a daily basis.

Supreme Science Selective Ferret food on page 47

Treating Your Ferret

Ferrets love a treat, and as long as they are good for them, there is no reason why you shouldn't occasionally feed one or two. Try Frankie Ferret Chikko treats- special low fibre, high protein crispy nuggets made with chicken, which they love.

See page 48 & 49 for the Supreme Treats range

Exercise

Ferrets are extremely active and very playful. Always find time to socialise with your ferret on a daily basis, this will add variety and stimulation to your pet’s day. Ferrets will play with small balls and enjoy a variety of tunnels to play in. Supreme Petfoods has designed a feeding ball so ferrets have to work for their food. This increases their exercise period, leading to a fitter pet and reducing ‘dietary related’ health problems. Ferrets enjoy sleeping above ground level, so an ideal accessory is a hammock.

Check out the ‘Furry Fun’ accessories range from Supreme Petfoods.

See pages 52 & 55

Handling Your Ferret

Allow your ferret to come to you before picking it up. This prevents frightening it and reduces the risk of being bitten. Ferrets should be grasped around the shoulders, with your thumb under the front leg and your fingers under the jaw and other front leg. Support the hind legs with your other hand, then gently bring the ferret against your chest.

Companionship

Ferrets are sociable, enjoying the company of their own kind, so it is often better to keep more than one ferret if possible. However, not all ferrets will like each other and never make the groups too big. Neutered males and females will usually live together harmoniously and provide companionship and play for each other. If only one ferret is to be kept, you will need to provide extra playtimes and exercise for it to compensate for lack of company.

Common Illnesses

Ferrets should be checked on a daily basis for signs of illness such as unusual discharges, or abnormal behaviour. Ferrets should be vaccinated for distemper.

Respiratory infections - Stress such as weaning, separation, overcrowding and poor husbandry can encourage illness. Symptoms will include sneezing, coughing, fever, nasal discharge and lethargy. Seek veterinary treatment as your ferret may require a course of antibiotics. Several human influenza strains can cause influenza in ferrets. Humans can infect ferrets and vice versa, so take precautions if you have a cold or flu.

Nutritional diarrhoea - This can be due to a sudden change in diet. Avoid any sudden change in diet, new diets should be introduced gradually over a minimum of two weeks. Diarrhoea should correct itself within a couple of days. If not, seek veterinary advice.

Infectious diarrhoea - This can be associated with parasites, bacteria or viruses and can affect ferrets at any age, although kits are most susceptible. In all cases it is important to find the cause, as ferrets can fall ill quite quickly, resulting in dehydration, poor condition and in the worst scenario, death. In all cases seek veterinary advice.

Foreign bodies - Due to the inquisitive nature of young ferrets, gastrointestinal obstructions are common. Occasionally a small, partially obstructing object may pass with the help of some intestinal lubricants, but in most cases surgery is necessary. In adult ferrets, hairballs can sometimes lead to obstruction especially during the moulting period. Grooming decreases the risk but for severe problems please see a vet.

Canine Distemper - Ferrets are very susceptible to Canine Distemper, which often leads to fatality. Signs of the virus include discharge around the eyes, nose and chin (eyes may be closed). Other symptoms are loss of appetite, a rash and lethargy. It is highly infectious and can be picked up from dog urine on the soles of your shoes. To prevent infection, ask your vet to vaccinate at 9 - 10 weeks.

Oestrogen induced anaemia - Jill’s are induced ovulators and may often have prolonged seasons if not mated. High prolonged levels of oestrogen in the body can cause aplastic anaemia. To prevent this happening, if you are not breeding from your jill you should have her neutered, brought out of season by a hormone injection, or present her to a vasectomised hob.

External parasites - Ear mites are common and will be apparent if your ferret shakes his head and scratches his ears often. It can lead to inflammation of the area and generally be uncomfortable to the animal. Regularly check your ferret for fleas and flea dirt. If fleas are found you will need to treat with a product recommended for use on ferrets. Don’t forget to treat their cage environment too.

Always consult a vet if you have ANY reason for concern.
Guide to Flystrike

Flystrike Kills Rabbits
Flystrike is an unpleasant and distressing condition which occurs in the summer months when flies lay their eggs around a rabbit’s bottom, or within faeces in the hutch. The eggs hatch into maggots which feed on the faeces and eventually the rabbit, burrowing into its flesh. Sound horrible? It is. Prevention is better than cure – if caught quick enough some rabbits can be successfully treated, but flystrike is often fatal. Effective hutch hygiene and good health care is by far the best defence. Follow Russel Rabbit’s simple 3-step guide to ensure that your rabbit is not at risk.

STEP 1
Examine your rabbit each day, indoors or outdoors, to check that his fur is clean, dry and not matted with faeces.

Flies are attracted by a "sticky bottom" or diarrhoea. If there is no sign of maggots, carefully rinse the area with warm water and mild soap. Thoroughly dry your rabbit and put it in a warm environment to prevent hypothermia. If you do see any sign of maggots, immediately remove them using a pair of tweezers and contact your vet straight away. Ensure that your rabbit has a balanced, complete diet in order to avoid the side effects of digestive disturbances. Diarrhoea is often the sign of a diet lacking in fibre. (See the Supreme Original and Science Selective ranges of food on pages 42 to 47)

STEP 2
Change soiled bedding every day.

A dirty hutch and bedding is a magnet for flies. Use plenty of good quality absorbent bedding in your rabbit’s toilet area to avoid excess moisture. See the Supreme range of super absorbent bedding on page 50

STEP 3
Once a week, thoroughly clean and disinfect the hutch.

Remove everything from the hutch and disinfect it with a purpose-made solution suitable for use with small animals. See page 51 for the Supreme range of cage cleaners and disinfectants. Keep it Clean is a non-toxic hutch cleaner formulated by vets to eliminate pet odours, germs and most bacteria. AntiBAC+ is proven to eliminate E-coli, Salmonella, Staphylococcus and many more bacteria.

‘There are no flies on me!’
Guide to Dangerous Plants

What harm can plants do to small animals?
Eating poisonous plants can affect your pet in a variety of ways. Symptoms range from a stomach upset to possibly, death. Other symptoms include salivation, skin allergies and heart and breathing difficulties. Rodents and Lagomorphs are incapable of vomiting, so harmful plants usually inducing this symptom may go undiagnosed. They may undergo physiological stress after ingesting those which are irritating to the digestive tract. If your pet is running free, the garden can be a very dangerous place, particularly if you are not familiar with harmful plants.

Dangerous Plants
The following are plants that are harmful to small animals. If you are unsure of what any of these plants look like, pictures can be found in books from your local library, or ask for advice at your local garden centre. Amongst the most poisonous are species such as: anemone, azalea, bittersweet, bryony, caladium, cyclamen, columbine, dog mercury, figwort, deadly nightshade, woody nightshade, poppies, ragwort, buttercups, daffodils, bluebells, foxglove, hemlock, spurge, kingcup, marsh marigold, monkshood, meadow saffron, mistletoe, St. Johns wort, Leyland cypress, fools parsley and hellebore.
Your garden may also contain cultivated plants that may cause illness such as:
dahlias, lupins, chrysanthemums, delphinium, lily of the valley, tulips, iris, morning glory, antirrhinums, labelia, fig, Jerusalem cherry, juniper, hyacinth, privet, yew, laburnum, lords and ladies, ivy, philodendron, rhododendron, wisteria, clematis, holly and most evergreen trees.

Prevention
If you have any of these plants in your garden there are a number of things you can do to prevent harm to your Rabbit or Guinea Pig. If your small animal has free run of the garden then you will need either to remove the plant or prevent the animal from eating it. Either surround the plant with chicken wire, or, if your animal is in a run, ensure the plant is not in contact with the wire as they may be able to reach through or nibble it. Always carefully identify any plants before you feed them to your small animal, as many harmful plants are similar in appearance to those that are not harmful.

First Aid
If you are in any doubt, do not feed or let your pet eat plants that you are unsure of. If your Rabbit or Guinea Pig becomes ill after being in the garden or after being fed plants and you suspect poisoning, a vet should be consulted immediately. Diagnosis of a particular poisoning can be difficult unless the rabbit is seen eating a specific plant. If so, the plant should be taken to the vet for assistance in diagnosis. The vet may administer fluids and gut protectants and treat symptomatically. Try to keep the animal warm and quiet to comfort the animal and minimize shock. Fluids can be given if the animal is interested and may assist in diluting and flushing the agent through.
Russel Rabbit Original is a nutritionally complete and balanced diet for rabbits of all ages. It contains alfalfa that is naturally rich in calcium, protein, fibre and lots of other ingredients specially selected for their high nutritional benefits and superior palatability. A visually appealing, tasty mix, the varied shapes, sizes and textures provide interest and encourages a rabbit's natural foraging behaviour, whilst the different textures help to keep its continually growing teeth in trim. Russel Rabbit Original contains all the essential vitamins and minerals required to keep a rabbit fit and healthy.

Russel Junior is a nutritionally complete and balanced food, specially formulated for the needs of young rabbits (4-20 weeks). It is also suitable for dwarf rabbits and pregnant or lactating does, that benefit from enhanced protein and fibre levels higher than found in Russel Rabbit Original. Russel Junior is free from artificial colourants.

Russel Carrot and Leek Gourmet is a tasty alternative to Russel Rabbit Original. Like Russel Rabbit Original it is also a nutritionally complete and balanced food and contains high levels of fibre and all the vitamins and minerals needed to keep rabbits fit and healthy. Russel Rabbit Carrot and Leek Gourmet contains tasty leek and carrot that rabbits love and is free from artificial colourants.

Russel Parsnip and Beetroot Gourmet is another tasty alternative to Russel Rabbit Original. It has been carefully formulated to provide your Rabbit with the most flavoursome nutritionally complete daily diet. Highly palatable with real parsnip and beetroot that your Rabbit will love. With added vitamins and minerals to ensure that your pet stays fit and healthy.

Gerty Guinea Pig Original is a high quality, nutritionally complete and balanced food, which satisfies specific nutritional and energy requirements through all life stages (growth, adulthood, pregnancy and lactation). Gerty Guinea Pig contains alfalfa, which is naturally rich in both protein and fibre. Other ingredients include maize, oats, wheat, beans and the all-important Vitamin C (250mg/kg). It includes the right amounts of protein (for growth), carbohydrates (for energy), fibre (for digestion and to aid dental wear), oils (for a glossy coat), vitamins and minerals (for healthy bones, teeth and skin).

Gerty Carrot and Cranberry Gourmet is a flavoursome alternative to Gerty Guinea pig, specially formulated to provide your guinea pig with everything it needs to maintain a healthy digestive system in a delicious and nutritionally complete daily diet. With added vitamin C (500mg/kg), important in every guinea pig’s diet for healthy bones and no artificial colourants.
**Harry Hamster Original** was the first food ever approved by the National Hamster Council. It is a nutritionally complete and balanced diet for all hamsters, with a specially selected mixture of ingredients. These include soya extrusions and pellets to provide just the right amount of protein, and real whole peanuts and sunflower seeds for added enjoyment and their nutritional benefits. The variety of shapes sizes and textures provides interest and encourages foraging, a natural behaviour in hamsters.

**Gerri Gerbil Original** is a nutritionally complete and balanced diet specially formulated for gerbils. It is a specially selected mix of ingredients, including alfalfa, maize, wheat, naked oats, carrots, peas, raisins and whole pumpkin seeds, as well as soya to provide just the right amount of protein in your gerbil’s diet, whilst remaining low in fat. Gerri Gerbil does not contain any sunflower seeds as, although gerbils love them, too many can be bad for them. However, the variety of shapes, sizes and textures encourages foraging which is natural for gerbils.

**Reggie Rat Original** is a unique meat free recipe, carefully formulated to provide your rat with a nutritionally complete and balanced daily diet. It has been formulated to keep rats fit and healthy, incorporating high quality soya-based ingredients to ensure that protein requirements are met. It contains carbohydrates (for energy) and vitamins and minerals (for healthy teeth and bones). The varied shapes, sizes and textures provide a visually appealing, tasty mix, providing interest and encouraging natural foraging behaviour.

**Charlie Chinchilla Original** is a nutritionally complete and balanced daily diet specially formulated for chinchillas. A carefully selected mix of ingredients, including alfalfa and grass pellets, wheat extrusions, peas, maize, raisins, carrots and soya, it is particularly high in fibre and low in fat. Charlie Chinchilla does not contain any sunflower seeds or peanuts as, although chinchillas love them, too many can be bad for them (high in fat). However, the variety of textures and tastes included encourages foraging which is natural for chinchillas and provides dental exercise that is good for their teeth.

**Supreme Meadow Hay** is a 100% natural product. Hay is a vital component of a small herbivore’s diet helping to aid digestion and help wear down its teeth. Supreme Meadow Hay is an excellent foraging material and a good source of fibre. It is dust-extracted to help prevent respiratory and other problems.

**Timothy Hay** 100% natural sun cured hay. It provides a long-strand fibre source that is necessary for superior digestive health of your herbivore. Hay is absolutely vital to the health of small herbivores; it provides not only nutrition, but environmental enrichment that mimics a natural habitat. It helps prevent obesity, maintain a healthy urinary system and improve overall health. Timothy Hay also promotes a natural chewing behaviour preventing teeth problems so common in small herbivores. With an ideal calcium to phosphorus ratio, for a healthy urinary tract, Timothy hay is known to be the most palatable hay for rabbits, guinea pigs and chinchillas, keeping them amused and foraging all day.
Supreme Science Selective Rabbit is created from a blend of high quality ingredients, formulated to provide a nutritionally complete and balanced diet in a tasty biscuit. It will ensure that your rabbit cannot selectively feed on its favourite ingredients in course mixes. Selective Rabbit is very high in fibre (19%) to aid gut motility and maintain healthy teeth, and linseed which is an excellent source of Omega 3 and 6 for a healthy skin and coat. It is also low in sugar to help prevent obesity.

Supreme Science Selective Guinea Pig is a nutritionally complete balanced daily diet, specifically designed to ensure that your guinea pig receives all the vitamins and other nutrients it needs in a tasty, easy to eat biscuit. The blend of herbs helps to encourage the natural elimination of stored water, eases constipation and stimulates gastric mobility to aid digestion and calm bloating. The Omega 3 and 6 in the linseed promotes a healthy glossy coat. It also contains added vitamin C (800mg/kg) as guinea pigs are unable to store it in their bodies but it is vital for healthy bones and cartilage.

Supreme Science Selective Rat is a unique vegetarian, nutritionally complete and balanced diet, created with a blend of fruits for a fully extruded, monocomponent diet. This provides your rat with all the vitamins and minerals it needs in one tasty, easy to eat biscuit. It contains apple and blackcurrant for their antioxidant benefits as well as an excellent source of natural vitamins. Science Selective Rat is high in polyunsaturated fatty acids and low in both saturated fatty acids and cholesterol to assist cardiovascular and circulatory health.

Supreme Science Selective Chinchilla is a nutritionally complete and balanced food containing all the nutrients and goodness your Chinchilla needs in an easy to eat, tasty biscuit. Science Selective is a mono component diet which includes a healthy blend of linseed, an excellent source of Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids, parsley, a tasty herb to enhance palatability and plantain, a highly palatable form of fibre. Complete with the very high fibre levels (19%) needed by Chinchillas, this fully extruded diet will prevent selective feeding and ensure your pet remains happy and healthy.

Supreme Science Selective Ferret is created from a blend of high quality ingredients that guarantees your animal will get all the protein, oils, vitamins and minerals it needs in every nugget; ensuring the health and well-being of your ferret. Science Selective contains linseed, a great source of Omega 3 and 6 promoting healthy skin and coat and Taurine, essential for your ferrets optimum health.

Supreme Science Recovery is a nutritionally complete rehydratable, syringe feeding diet designed to feed sick or convalescing rabbits. It is also a complementary feed for most small herbivores. Recuperating animals often need encouragement to eat and Science Recovery stimulates the animal to eat through the use of easily digestible ingredients and appetite stimulants. This helps to promote gut activity, stabilise beneficial gut bacteria and support the immune system. It incorporates high levels of protein, fibre and vitamins, essential during the critical recovery period.

(This product is available only from your vet.)
All of our Russel, Gerty, Harry, Gerri, Charlie, Reggie and Frankie treats are made in our human grade bakery in the heart of Suffolk. Made entirely out of human food ingredients, you can trust the quality of these snacks.

**Supreme Russel Rabbit Carrot Cruncher Treats** - tasty treats with real carrot, suitable for guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and chinchillas. They encourage gnawing, provide environmental enrichment and are the perfect way to help you interact with your pet.

**Supreme Russel Rabbit Summer Fruit Treats** are a tasty mix of cookies, bursting with fruity natural flavours and real berries to give your pet a real taste sensation. Also suitable for guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and chinchillas.

**Supreme Russel Rabbit Garden Treats** are a mix of crunchy cookies, which will "bring the outside in". Small animals love the carrot and leek flavoured cookies. Suitable for guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and chinchillas.

**Supreme Gerty Guinea Pig Nibble & Squeak Treats** - Each box contains a variety of biscuit snacks. Different sizes, shapes and colours with tempting real corn, leek and carrot will allow you to give a tasty and nutritious treat each time. Suitable also for rabbits, hamsters and gerbils.

**Supreme Gerty Guinea Pig Forest Fruit Treats** - Let your guinea pig enjoy the flavours of forest fruits in wonderfully crunchy cookies. With delicious real blackberries, cranberries, apple and hazelnut. Also suitable for rabbits, hamsters and gerbils.

**Supreme Harry Hamster Yippee Treats** - A mix of tasty, crunchy sticks with real carrot, apple and maize that hamsters love! Hide one or two around the cage to encourage your hamster to forage. If you have a dwarf hamster, break the stick in half before you give it to him. Suitable for rabbits, guinea pigs, gerbils and chinchillas as well.

**Supreme Reggie Rat Chik 'n' Chip Treats** - A tasty mix of crunchy sticks, with real chicken and potato that your rat will love. A pleasurable treat that is both wholesome and fun and helps wear down your rat's teeth. Hamsters and gerbils will love them too!

**Supreme Charlie Chinchilla Cookie Treats** - Chinchillas really love these treats that have been specially made to stimulate their taste buds. Each box contains 3 delicious varieties of crispy nuggets made with real carrot, apple or maize. These special, low-fat biscuits make an ideal treat for your chinchilla.

**Supreme Frankie Ferret Chikko** - a real treat for ferrets (as well as hamsters, gerbils, rats and mice). They will love these tasty crunchy baked treats, which are high in proteins and oils necessary for the health of omnivores and carnivores.

**Supreme Root 'n' Fruit Nibble Treats** - a favourite of small animals, as they are bursting with real chunks of crunchy carrot (41%), tasty apple (8%) and plump raisins (16%). Suitable for chinchillas, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats and mice.

**Supreme Stickle Treats** are a range of tasty treats; each stick is blended with a variety of delicious ingredients all baked onto a special holder for easy handling and attachment to hutches and cages. Suitable for rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, hamsters, rats and mice. Available in five fantastic flavours: Apple 'n' Cranberry, Banana 'n' Honey, Popcorn 'n' Carrot, Sweetcorn 'n' Honey and Wild Fruit 'n' Nut.

**Supreme Rolling Delights** will amuse your pet happily for hours, as they gnaw away at these taste natural treats. Available in 2 flavours, Herb 'n' Hay and Apple, Elderberry 'n' Orange. Each pack contains 2 discs and a handy clip for easy attachment to hutches and cages. Suitable for rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats and chinchillas.

**Supreme Giant Carrots** - From our human grade bakery, tasty crunchy treats with real carrots – so tasty, Mum and Dad can eat them too!
Supreme Pet Foods Product Guide

Supreme Russel Bedding - A 100% natural product, is made from the highest quality barley straw, chopped and ground for softness and extra comfort. Dust extracted to help avoid respiratory problems, it fluffs up to provide natural, warm absorbent bedding that is ideal for your animal. Because it is completely natural, Russel Bedding is safer than some other types of bedding. It is also treated with a non-toxic cleaning agent to eliminate pet odours, germs and bacteria and as a result has a pleasant lemon odour, which helps to deter flying insects.

Also available is Supreme Natural Barley Straw. 100% natural, it has been specially processed to reduce dust levels that may irritate your small animal or cause breathing difficulties.

Supreme Choice Woodshavings - A 100% natural, high quality, fresh bedding which is highly absorbent and dust extracted, making it safer around small animals eyes, ears and nose.

Supreme Science Carefresh is even more absorbent than traditional bedding, absorbing over 3 times its weight in liquid, and eliminates urine odours. It is dust free and hypo-allergenic and is, therefore, particularly suitable if your animal has any sort of allergy. It is safe and hygienic and has been heat treated to inhibit bacteria and fungi growth.

Supreme Keep It Clean is a cage and hutch cleaning spray that reduces pet odours, germs and bacteria (which can harm your pet), also reducing the risk of flystrike. Keep It Clean can also be sprayed on the bedding and accessories as well as inside the cage or hutch, ensuring that your pet’s home is clean and smells fresh at all times. Suitable for all animals, it is available in 3 fresh smelling fragrances: Lemon, Lavender and Coconut.

Supreme Charlie Chinchilla Bathing Sand - 100% natural, dust free bathing sand, suitable for chinchillas and gerbils. Tested for perfect grain size and density, this bacterially clean product ensures a dust free atmosphere for chinchillas and gerbils, penetrating their fine fur structure to give a healthy clean skin. With a quality of grain so soft, delicate chinchilla fur will not be damaged, the absorptive quality of this sand will remove excess skin oils, leaving a healthy skin and glowing coat.

AntiBAC+ is a unique product designed to assist in the prevention of bacteria build up in the enclosures and living areas of small animals. Proven to eliminate E-coli, Salmonella, Staphylococcus and many more harmful bacteria, it gets rid of nasty odours, rather than masking them. Available in two fragrances, Tee Tree and Eucalyptus or Fresh Mint it has an easy to use ‘pump action’ bottle. CFC free and environmentally friendly, it is safe to use around small animals. Regular use will deter flies and mosquitoes, reducing the possibility of Flystrike.
Supreme Furry Fun Treat and Feeding Balls are designed to make feeding time fun. Place some food or treats in the balls and as your rabbit, ferret or rat plays, the ball dispenses food or treats, encouraging activity and keeping your pet amused and happy. It increases the eating period, thereby preventing boredom and keeping him or her fit at the same time.

Supremes Jingle Ball, Jingle Dumbell and Exercise Dumbell are Supreme’s best selling toys. Rabbits, ferrets and other small animals love to play with these, picking them up, nudging them around or hopping over them.

Fruit Gnaws are fruit shapes that provide small animals with a safe chewable toy, which helps to wear down their continually growing teeth and keeps them occupied.

Supremes Harry Hamster Fort is a self-assembly cardboard maze with push out doorways the owner can open, offering hamsters exercise and stimulation as they search out treats you have hidden!

Supreme Wood Logs are 100% natural and can be bent into many shapes for small animals to play and hide in. They are safe for small animals to chew and will help wear down their continually growing teeth.
Blinky and Babble Balls are interactive fun for your pet. The babble ball has over 20 funny phrases and sounds, while the blinky ball has over 40,000 brilliant flash cycles. Both start with a single touch and turn off when not being used. Suitable for all pets.

Supreme’s Russel Rabbit Hay Rack allows you to store your rabbit, guinea pig or chinchillas Timothy or Meadow Hay off the hutch floor. It stays cleaner and fresher for longer.

Supreme large and small feeding bowls - Engraved with pictures of Harry (small) and Russel (large), these solid metal bowls are designed not to tip or spill.

Supreme Furry Fun Crazy Climbers create more space and levels in a cage, providing a stimulating and fun environment. They come with hanging ropes, gnaws plus an extra hook for treats.

Rip n’ Run Burrows, Crackle Tunnel and Rat Tunnel can all be tied to the cage and enjoyed by a range of animals from mice to ferrets. The Crackle Tunnel is designed especially for ferrets who love the sound and texture.

Supreme’s Rabbit and Ferret harnesses are both fully washable and adjustable for all sizes of rabbits and ferrets.