

Mongolian gerbil

Meriones unguiculatus

🇫🇷 Gerbille 🇲🇳 Mongolische Rennmaus



REGULATIONS

Companion animal

OPAn: group housing (social species), deep digging substrate; respect minimum enclosure sizes. Professional sale requires competence.



LIFESPAN

3–5 years



ADULT WEIGHT

65–110 g



LIFESTYLE

Diurnal, nocturnal and mainly crepuscular



BODY TEMPERATURE

37–38.5 °C



SEXUAL MATURITY

2–3 months



GESTATION

24–28 days



LITTER / CLUTCH SIZE

2–12



Habitat & environment



Type — Large multi-level cage, sheltered from drafts



Substrate — Plant-based bedding (hemp, corncob), paper (Twistynest), cellulose (Carefresh).



Exercise — Social activity is very important. Regular out-of-cage time recommended.



Equipment

- Wheel
- Hideouts (PVC, small house)
- Branches to gnaw (hazel)
- Food bowl
- Water bottle or heavy water bowl



Technical parameters



Ambient

21–25 °C

Optimal temperature



Behaviour

Social; needs to live with conspecifics to thrive. Social activity is crucial.



Social life — Social. Inter-species cohabitation not recommended.



Activity cycle — Diurnal / Nocturnal / Crepuscular



Enrichment

- Cohabitation (conspecifics only)
- Multi-level setup
- Gnawing material (hazel)



Nutrition

Vegetarian with omnivorous tendencies. Very sensitive to dietary changes. Pellets or extruded food recommended.



Daily base



Pellets

<5% fat content. Brands: Oxbow, Supreme Science, Beaphar



Vegetables & greens

Fresh and/or dried (1–2×/day). Remove fruit after 12 hrs.

 Endive

 Carrot

 Lettuce

★ Treats (occasional)

Occasionally. Don't overdo it.

 **White Fish**
White fish fillet

 **Hard-boiled Egg White**
Hard-boiled egg white

 **Soy Milk**
 **White Meat**

FREQUENCY

TO AVOID

 **Seed Mix**
Predisposes to obesity

 **Table Scraps**
Obesity risk

 **Citrus**
 **Potato**
Raw

 **Cabbage**
Cabbages / Brassicas

Health & prevention

Preventive medicine

Deworming if necessary.

Vaccination

None

Surgery & neutering

Female: abdominal spay (from 4 months). Male: scrotal castration (prevents testicular tumours and seborrhoea).

Common conditions

Obesity

SYMPTOMS Excessive weight gain

CAUSE Seed mixes or table scraps

PREVENTION Pellets <5% fat only

Testicular tumours

SYMPTOMS Mass in the testicular area

CAUSE Hormonal / Age

PREVENTION Preventive castration

WARNING SIGNS

- Obesity (if fed seed mixes)
- Respiratory issues (cedar/pine bedding)
- Pododermatitis (dust)
- Greasy coat (seborrhoea)

If any of these symptoms appear, prompt veterinary care is essential.
Contact an exotic-pet vet as soon as possible.

Seborrhoea

SYMPTOMS Greasy coat

CAUSE Hormonal

PREVENTION Castration

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