

Minimum Housing Requirements for Rodents

We do have minimum requirements which need to be met by the adopter before the adoption can go ahead and these are in-line with recommended guidelines from animal welfare organisations.

For a pair of Guinea Pigs:

Minimum hutch/cage size of 120cm x 60cm (4ft x 2ft) with access to an exercise area of a minimum of 120cm x 120cm (4ft x 4ft)

You will also have to be in a position to be able to bring them into a warmer environment during the winter months. They will also require a suitable diet of hay, fresh foods and a quality extruded pellet.

For more information in regards to guinea pig care we recommend you visit

<http://www.guineapigwelfare.org.uk/guinea-pig-care/>

For Chinchillas: 60cm (w) x 94cm (l) x 142cm (h) cage with plenty of wooden platforms to jump about on and chew. We ONLY recommend cages which are fully constructed with metal as chinchillas chew and a plastic base will easily be chewed through allowing your chinchillas to escape. We also DON'T recommend cages with uncovered wire bases as this can lead to problems such as bumble foot. You are able to cover bases with cardboard or replace with metal trays. Cages we recommend are Nevada rodent cage by Liberta, the 2nd Edition all metal Explorer Rat, Chinchilla & Ferret Cage, Savic Rat & Ferret Cage Royal Suite 95, Savic Suite Royal XL. A great place to check for cages is http://www.cagesworld.co.uk/c/Chinchilla_Cages.htm and <http://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/pets/chinchillas/cages> as well as having a look on Ebay. A great place for toys and cage accessories is https://www.viovet.co.uk/Small_Animal_Accessories/c3075/ You are able to use plain untreated pine for shelving which can be purchased at any DIY store. They will also require a suitable low sugar, low fat and high fibre diet mainly consisting of hay with quality extruded pellets and daily access to a dust bath. Chinchillas are delightful creatures but require specialist care so please ensure you have done plenty of research into their care as a bad diet can quite literally lead to death. We recommend you visit <http://www.chinchillas4life.co.uk/>

For Degus: 60cm (w) x 94cm (l) x 142cm (h) cage with plenty of wooden platforms to jump about on and chew. We ONLY recommend cages which are fully constructed with metal as degus chew and a plastic base will easily be chewed through allowing your degus to escape. We also DON'T recommend cages with uncovered wire bases as this can lead to problems such as bumble foot. You are able to cover bases with cardboard or replace with metal trays. Cages we recommend are Nevada rodent cage by Liberta, the 2nd Edition all metal Explorer Rat, Chinchilla & Ferret Cage, Savic Rat & Ferret Cage Royal Suite 95, Savic Suite Royal XL. A great place to check for cages is http://www.cagesworld.co.uk/c/Chinchilla_Cages.htm and <http://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/pets/chinchillas/cages> as well as having a look on Ebay. A great place for toys and cage accessories is https://www.viovet.co.uk/Small_Animal_Accessories/c3075/ You are able to use plain untreated pine for shelving which can be purchased at any DIY store. They will also require a suitable low sugar, low fat and high fibre diet mainly consisting of hay with quality extruded pellets and daily access to a dust bath. For more information on degu care we recommend <http://www.degutopia.co.uk>

For Syrian Hamsters: 84cm (l) x 48cm (w) x 44cm (h) cage with a wheel with a minimum diameter of 12cm and plenty of toys. A great place to look for hamster cages is http://www.zooplus.co.uk/shop/small_pets/hutches_cages/hamster_cages and we recommend Hamster Heaven Metro Cage from Savic, Barney Pet Cage, Alexander Small Pet Cage and Alaska Hamster Cage. A great place to look for toys and cage accessories is https://www.viovet.co.uk/Small_Animal_Accessories/c3075/ For more information on hamster care we recommend http://www.hamstercentral.com/wiki/Main_Page and <http://littlebearshamsterrescue.weebly.com/hamster-care.html>

For Dwarf Hamsters: 60cm (l) x 40cm (w) x 35cm (h) cage. For more information on hamster care we recommend http://www.hamstercentral.com/wiki/Main_Page and <http://littlebearshamsterrescue.weebly.com/hamster-care.html>

For Mice: 60cm (l) x 40cm (w) x 35cm (h) cage, beware of bar spacing when purchasing a suitable cage ideally 7m (not over 9m) for more information on mouse care please talk to us as we have been unable to find a suitable link to send you to.

For a pair of rats: 70cm (l) x 40cm (w) x 70cm (h) cage with shelves. For more information on rat care we recommend www.ratz.co.uk

If you have already submitted an application but your current or proposed housing does not meet these minimum requirements, you are welcome to re-apply once these minimum recommendations have been met. We have these minimum requirements to meet with current animal welfare legislation in relation to providing a habitat where animals are able to display natural behaviours while being kept in a captive environment.