

RABBITS

Lifespan Approx: 10 years

Sex: Difficult to sex at young age. Adults and Juvenile reproductive organs can be seen on inspection.

Sexual Maturity: 3 months

Origin: Europe

Pet Suitability: Very Good

Sociability: Easily handled and tamed, adult rabbits that are not de-sexed are more likely to bite to defend territory. Multiple rabbits can be housed in the same enclosure as long as space is sufficient.

Natural Diet: Herbivorous, variety of rough grasses and fibrous plant matter.

Vetafarm preferred captive diet: Furry Friends Rabbit diet, Furry Friends Meadow Hay.

Vetafarm recommended additives: Fresh veges and high fibre grasses, Vitasol Drops.

Dr Tony's Bit: Rabbits are great pets for children and adults alike. Rabbits are relatively low maintenance, although there are a few things that you should be aware of before purchasing a rabbit. Rabbits require vaccination against Calicivirus at 8 and 12 weeks of age and once annually afterwards.

Rabbits are sensitive to high temperatures and care needs to be taken to ensure they do not dehydrate on hot days. Rabbits also require a very high fibre diet with plenty of roughage to ensure healthy teeth and digestive system. A rabbits teeth grow continually and without the right diet dental problems can become a serious problem.

Contact Vet or Vetafarm for: Diarrhoea, lack of appetite, weight loss, long teeth, fur loss, sore feet.



GUINEA PIG CAVY

Lifespan Approx: 10 years

Sex: Difficult to sex at young age. Adults and Juvenile reproductive organs can be seen on inspection.

Sexual Maturity: 4 months

Origin: Europe

Pet Suitability: Very Good

Sociability: Easily handled and tamed, can become skittish if handled roughly. Multiple Guinea Pigs can be housed together, though Guinea Pigs should not be housed with Rabbits.

Natural Diet: Herbivorous, variety of rough grasses and fresh plant matter high in Vitamin C.

Vetafarm preferred captive diet: Furry Friends Guinea Pig diet, Furry Friends Meadow Hay.

Vetafarm recommended additives: salad greens, chinese vegetables, coriander, milk thistle, Furry Friends Vita-C Plus Tabs, Furry Friends Vitasol Drops.

Vetafarm Recommended Parasite control: Furry Friends Mite and Insect Liquidator.

Dr Tony's Bit: Guinea Pigs are great pets and are again very hardy, although as with Rabbits there has been much misinformation and little education given to the pet owner and retailer alike when it comes to both these animals. Guinea Pigs have an absolute requirement for high levels of Vitamin C to ensure good health and normal life. Without the supplementation of dietary Vitamin C, Guinea Pigs can develop a range of different deficiency related diseases and become very ill and even die. Rabbits and Guinea Pigs should never be housed together; Rabbits carry respiratory bacteria that can cause fatal infections in Guinea Pigs and both have different dietary requirements.

Contact Vet or **Vetafarm** for: Fur loss, weight loss, long teeth, lack of appetite, limb paralysis, straining to urinate.



FERRETS

Lifespan Approx: 15 years

Sex: Reproductive organs can be seen on inspection.

Male Ferrets are usually much bigger than females Ferrets.

Sexual Maturity: 4 months

Origin: Europe

Pet Suitability: Very Good

Sociability: Easily tamed from a young age. Very sociable mammal that enjoys a playmate, best kept in pairs

Natural Diet: Carnivorous, variety of small vertebrates, high protein, low carbohydrate.

Vetafarm preferred Diet: Fast metabolism - Professionally formulated dry diet is ideal

Vetafarm recommended additives: fresh meat (remove daily as ferrets love to stash food for later) particularly kidney and liver as treats, **Furry Friends Vitasol Drops.**

Vetafarm Recommended Parasite control: **Furry Friends Mite and Insect Liquidator.**

Dr Tony's Bit: Ferrets are great pets for those who love a cheeky, active animal with a knack for creating amusing situations. Ferrets do not sweat and are sensitive to high temperature, also as mentioned they do have the tendency to stow away uneaten food for later consumption so a regular check and clean down of the enclosure is advised to ensure there is no spoilt foods hidden under bedding. Ferrets are susceptible to heartworm so heartworm prevention is advisable in areas where this is an issue.

Both male and females not purchased for breeding should be de-sexed at 5 months of age, both are susceptible to a range of life threatening health problems if not de-sexed and not mated.

Contact Vet or Vetafarm for: Lack of appetite, weight loss, lethargy, fur loss, diarrhoea.



RATS AND MICE

Lifespan Approx: Mice 2 years, Rats 5 years

Sex: Reproductive organs can be seen on inspection

Sexual Maturity: Mice 1 month, Rats 3months

Origin: Europe

Pet Suitability: Very Good

Sociability: Easily tamed and handled. Sociable animals, care must be taken to prevent unwanted breeding.

Natural Diet: Omnivorous, mixed diet of seeds, fruit and anything else they can sink their teeth into.

Vetafarm preferred captive diet: **Furry Friends Rat and Mouse Food**

Vetafarm recommended additives: **VitaSol drops, Nature's Essential Mix**

Vetafarm Recommended Parasite control: **Furry Friends Mite and Insect Liquidator.**

Dr Tony's Bit: Rats and Mice are the easiest of the 'pocket pets' to care for and also make good pets, although mice in particular can have the tendency to get on the nose, using

Furry Friends Pinabed absorbs bacteria and ammonia keeping Mice and Rats safer and smelling fresher longer.

Contact Vet or Vetafarm for:

Loss of appetite, weight loss, fur loss, lethargy.

