



Paw Alliance Mission



The Piedmont Animal Welfare Alliance (PAW Alliance) is an all-volunteer animal welfare / social justice nonprofit in Forsyth County, NC. We envision a world where no person or animal will be thrown away, and our mission is to make our community one where all pets and people have safe and loving homes.

New leash on life

We partner with the Forsyth Correctional Center, a minimum-security men's prison and the Winston-Salem Dog Training Club in A New Leash on Life, a N.C. state prison dog-training program. We also form alliances with area rescue groups to help dogs most in need.



New Start in Life

We also collaborate with Family Services Forsyth County in A New Start in Life, supporting domestic violence survivors and the pets they love. We offer foster care or safe lodging to pets while the survivor are in the domestic violence shelter.





Food

Dogs should be given a variety of sources of protein such as fish, dairy, poultry, and other meats. When using kibble, look for AAFCO certification. Major manufacturer brands are better than unknown trendy brands. Make sure your dogs have food from good brands that are organic like Stella Chew or Nature Balance. Another good way to identify good food is to check and see if the name ends with the word meal because brands that end with meal might not be the best food for your dog. If a dog isn't house trained, stick to kibble as the extra water in canned foods will make them need to pee more often. As a general rule, feed your dog 2/3rds of their meal in the morning and the remaining 1/3rd in the evening. Don't give your dog too many treats. Never give a dog chocolate, because even a small amount can make a dog incredibly sick. On a similar note, never give a dog cooked poultry bones, onions, grapes, or cherries. Dogs should have plenty of fresh water.

Dog

Care

Dogs need plenty of exercise especially bigger dogs and younger dogs. If your dog is scared of you offer them treats and work slowly to help them get more comfortable with you. If you have noticed your dog has behaviors that you can not handle please contact Paw Alliance. If the dog is not eating or has changed there eating pattern, has blood in there poop or urine, has a change in behavior, or pale gums call your vet. If your dog is actively bleeding out, has vomited or diarrhea more that once you should call the emergency vet immediately. Some good resources to go to if there is something you are unsure about are Best Friends, ASPCA, PAW Alliance.



Home

Crates can be very useful with dogs, especially when the dog first moves in with you. A crate can provide a safe space. A dog should be able to stand, turn around, and lie down in a crate comfortably. While all dogs should have beds, older dogs need more cushioning than younger dogs. Dog beds should be washed regularly. Keep things you care about and food away from them. Dogs can't be chained outside by Winston-Salem law.



Health

Take to the vet when they're acting different.

Signs can be irregular urination, eye discharge, swelling, sneezing, lethargy, appetite loss, dehydration, vomiting, hair loss, diarrhea or constipation, changes in behavior, or any other signs of unusual behavior. Generally, all of these symptoms are concerning in extremes but if they happen minimally it's probably not a problem. You should usually call an emergency number for a cat in any situation you would call 911 for a human.

Cat Care

Food

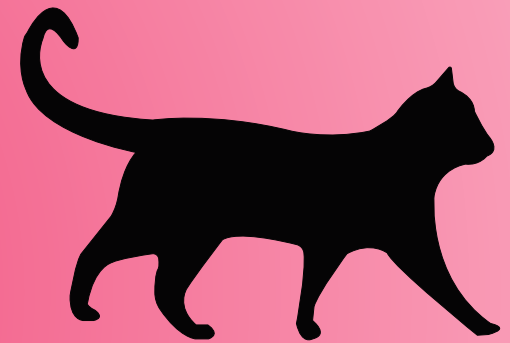
Most cats like a combination of wet and dry food once or twice daily. They need a lot of protein, so they eat mainly meat. For wet food, pate is better than flakes in gravy as some cats will eat the gravy, not the meat. Kittens need special food that has more fat and protein so but food specifically for them. Dry food is a cost-effective easy food to give to cats, but it doesn't contain a lot of water and can also lead to obesity. Try to get dry food with lots of protein and not a lot of carbohydrates. Some people opt for a more natural, raw diet for their cats, but it can be hard to do correctly and it can be easy to do wrong. If you go for this diet, you should feed your cat frozen or freeze-dried food. Cats should always have water available. It's a good idea to have different bowls of water around your house too. Avoid milk and dairy products. Opt for a wide, shallow bowl or a water fountain so your cat doesn't get their whiskers wet. Avoid feeding your cat onions, garlic, chocolate, alcohol, grapes, tea, and coffee. If you have multiple cats, you might want to put their food in different places because they can sometimes (even accidentally) bully each other over food. Make sure cats can't get to house plants as they're poisonous.

Care

Cats can generally groom themselves, but you should brush them. Brushing your cat can be beneficial for their hygiene. Even once or twice a week is enough to make their skin healthier and their coat shiny. Long-haired cats need to be brushed more often. You can clean your cat's ears with a little bit of liquid ear cleanser on a cotton ball or piece if needed. You probably won't have to bathe them, especially if they aren't going outside. You can cut your cat's nails if you really want, just be careful because if you cut them too short they can bleed and be painful. Take your cat to the vet if they're acting differently. Signs can be irregular urination, diarrhea or constipation, changes in behavior, or any other signs of acting differently. Put a litter box somewhere easily accessible and make it as inviting as possible. An open box is your best bet. Scoop it out daily and fully empty it, clean it with mild soap, and put in new unscented litter every two weeks. If you have multiple cats you should have a litter box for each of them plus one more. Play with your cat at least once or twice a day. You can play with them with toys just make sure to watch them if the toy can be ingested easily.

Home

Some cats like cat beds and cat towers. You should get them things such as cat scratchers, toys, and cat towers/trees but different cats like different things. Make sure they have a litter box, unscented litter, food, water, a collar, a brush, a carrier, a comfy place to sleep, and plenty of room to move around.





Reptiles can eat insects, fruits, vegetables, and pellets. Some good insects to feed your reptiles are Domestic Silk Moths, Worms, Crickets, Black Soldier Flies, Cockroaches, and the common Fruit Fly. When you feed your reptile insects do not feed them wild insects or insects you caught. Also do not feed them avocado, eggplant, rosemary, sage, or vitamin deficient and fiber rich food.

Reptiles

Care

Take your reptile to the vet if signs of illness or injury occurs including: lesions, discoloration, sudden weight loss or gain, lethargy, diarrhea, respiratory issues, and anorexia. You should also call your vet immediately if your reptile has discharge from the eyes, nose, or mouth. Give your reptile plenty of water.

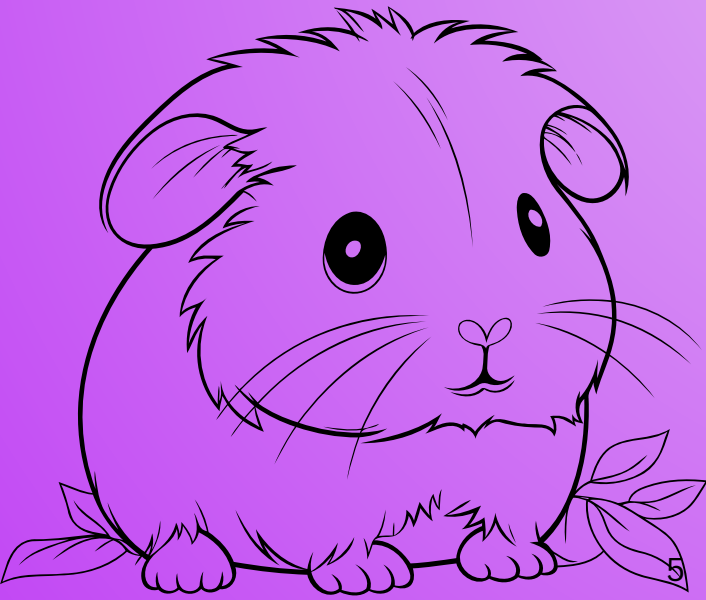


Your reptile should have a warm environment, you need a day and night heating lamp in a terrarium that is a good size for your pet. Your habitat should have rocks, plants, mulch, and places for them to bask. Your enclosure's top should be screened and have plenty of air flow and should be securely fastened.



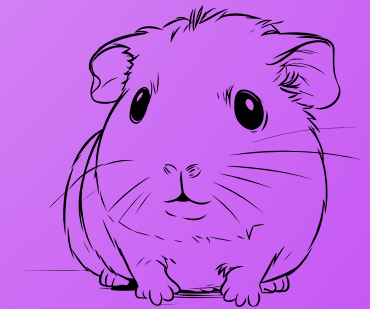
Health

Small animals are pretty good at hiding if they're sick or hurt. A good way to spend a lot of time with them and see if something is off. Some signs are weight loss/less eating/only eating soft foods, drooling, diarrhea, not grooming, losing hair, lumps/bumps on the body, lethargic, scratching a lot, sores/red skin on feet, sneezing/more mucus, more sniffing sounds, and in rats and mice red staining around eyes and nose. You should take action if your rodent seems sick and see what a veterinarian has to say.



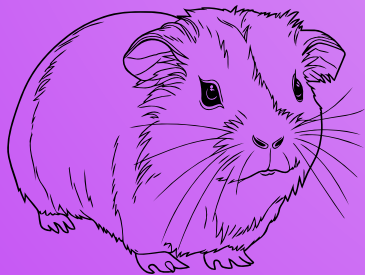
Small Animals (Hamsters, Gerbils, mice, etc.)

Care



Food

Hamsters, mice, rats, and gerbils are omnivores and they all have the same diet. You should feed them pellet mix, seeds, and fresh produce along with little bits of more foods every week. Treats could be fruit and vegetables, whole grain bread/cereal, and hard-boiled eggs just don't give them sugar and high-fat foods like dairy. Guinea pigs are herbivores so they need pellets, hay, and vegetables. Give them 1/8 cup of pellets once a day, and they need unlimited timothy hay. Give them small servings of fruit like a wedge of orange/apple, a few blueberries, or a little slice of a banana. They need a lot of vitamin C, and fruits with lots of vitamin C include kiwis, strawberries, and citrus fruits. Don't give them a lot of fruit, it has a lot of sugar, and don't give them eggs or dairy because they're herbivores. Never give any of these animals onions, garlic, avocado, apple seeds, citrus fruits to mice, gerbils, and hamsters, grapes to rats, mice, and gerbils, walnuts, rhubarb, raisins, and chocolate. Make sure your animal always has fresh water.



Care

Gerbils, mice, and hamsters can be very skittish while guinea pigs and rats can be more friendly. You should try to interact with your pet and pick them up for at least a few minutes every day. You can give them treats like fruits and vegetables to help. Most rodents like to be in groups together except for hamsters. These animals are active and some are nocturnal so you can't play with them while they're active. You can give them many different things like cardboard boxes, toilet paper/paper towel tubes, cardboard egg cartons, paper bags, and more, just make sure there aren't any plastic, labels, tape, or tags. You should definitely get a hamster wheel for hamsters, gerbils, mice, and rats. Try and get one where the tread is solid and enclosed so no body parts can get caught. Rats love climbing so you can get ropes, ladders, and more for them. You can really get lots of different fun toys at the toy store. It's good for gerbils to get out of their cage some every day, just make sure they can't get to anything unsafe like wires, plants, or other pets.



Home

Rats: Wire cages are best and have them as tall and big as possible. For two rats, have one that's at least 28 inches long x 14 inches wide x 17 inches high, but there should be more space for toys and stuff.

Hamsters: Cages with deep plastic bases and wire tops work because they like digging and climbing. A cage should be at least 24 inches long x 12 inches wide x 12 inches high.

Gerbils and mice: They're usually in aquariums so they can't escape. Make sure the tank has ventilation holes and a secure wire lid. Make sure there are things for them to climb and lots of bedding for gerbils to dig through. Wire cages work if the spacing is no larger than 1/4 inch. You want 10 gallons of space per gerbil. For mice it's 18 inches long x 12 inches wide x 12 inches high. For every mouse, make the floor area 1/2 a square foot bigger.

Guinea pigs: They like flat, open spaces, and can be afraid of heights. Two guinea pigs need at least 10 1/2 square feet of room in their cage, three need at least 13, and four need at least 16.

Put some sort of bedding like wood shavings (aspen or kiln-dried pine), paper shreds, hemp shavings, or something else on the bottom of their cage.

Look at the cage to see if it needs cleaning every day. Clean food/water bowls before refilling and remove dirty litter/bedding. Deep clean the cage, and toys if needed once a week with hot water and soap. Get rid of old bedding.



Food

Feed your birds fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and organic brands of food. Do not feed your bird caffeine, chocolate, mushrooms, avocados, alcohol, or dairy. Make sure to give your bird plenty of fresh water.



Birds

Care

If your birds are lethargic, not sitting on a perch, sleepy, or sitting on the bottom of their cage (they're not picking up pellets.) head tucked under a wing or droopy wings, continuous ruffling of feathers, picking, preening feathers, not cleaning themselves, bald spots, or if they are obviously hurt or bleeding a lot take them to the vet.



Home

Birds need toys to play with. You can play games with your bird like Peekaboo or Hide & Seek. The cage should be big enough for the bird to fly around and have a perch and a good amount of floor space. Make sure the birds food and water is easily accessible from the perch. There should be paper at the bottom of there cage. Their cage should be cleaned regularly.

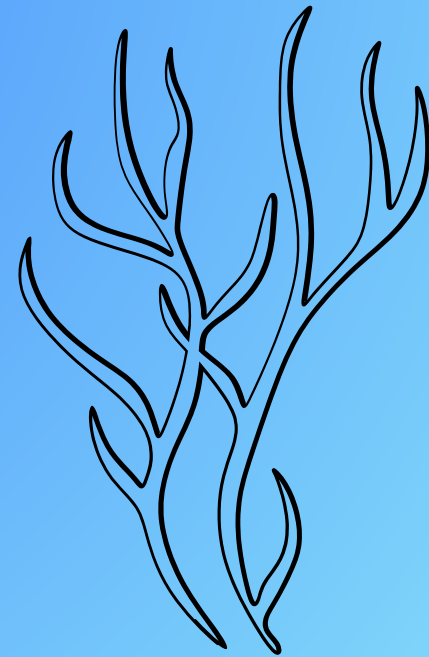
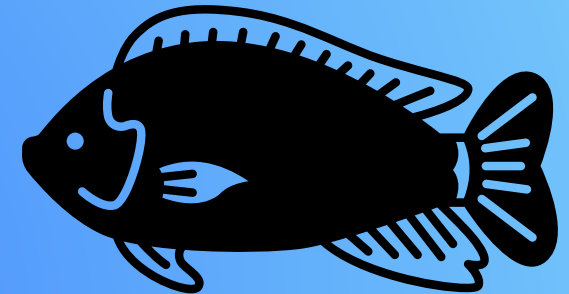
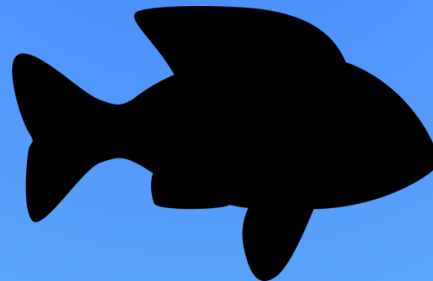
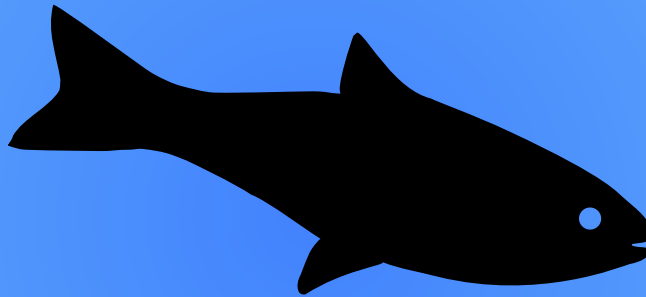
Fish Care

Health

If a fish is sick they'll usually show it.

Behavioral signs could be changes in swimming behavior like loss of balance or floating control, floating upside down, or 'sitting' on the tank floor. Physical signs could be changes in the color or the condition of their body and fins, lesions, or swelling in the abdomen.

Parasites cause the most common illness, but they can also have bacterial, fungal, and viral infections. Some of the most common infections are Anchor Worms, Dropsy, Skin or Gill Flukes, and White Spots. Neon Tetras can get Neon Tetra Disease, which is a parasite that causes discoloration. You can prevent illness by quarantining new or sick fish, feeding them high-quality food, making sure the water quality is good, cleaning/changing the tank/filter regularly, making sure there aren't any bully fishes in the tank, and not stressing your fish with temperature changes or loud noises.

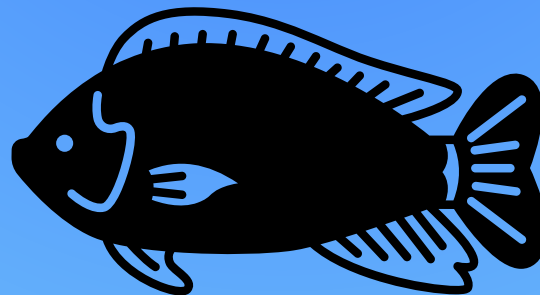


Food

Different fish species need different food. Dry food is the most popular and comes in flakes, pellets, wafers, crisps, and sticks. Flakes are the most common and are cheap, versatile, and better for small fish. Crisps are basically denser flakes that float longer but are more expensive. Pellets are nutritionally good overall and better for bottom feeders. Fish sticks are like pellets, just lighter they make less waste. Wafers/tablets can be big or small, sink, and slowly soften. They're supposed to be nibbled, unlike other fish food. They're good for bottom feeders. Herbivores and omnivores need between 35-45% protein in their food and Carnivores need 40-55%. For most fish some vegetation (like algae flakes) is good unless they're fully carnivorous. Fats should be 15-25% of their diet and they don't need a ton of carbohydrates. They need vitamins like vitamins A, C, D, E & K.

Care

A good rule of thumb is to have at least 50% of the tank floor covered. Territorial fish need spaces to hide. You can even swap out the decor once in a while or put a mirror outside of the tank. Music, especially classical music, can be good for drowning out background noise thus calming fish. Music with a lot of bass or loud noises like barking can stress them out. Never touch your fish unless it's an emergency or they need to be transferred to another tank. Only handle them with a net. You can use your finger or a bright stick to get their attention and get them to follow you. You can even teach them to swim through a hoop. You can teach fish like betas and goldfish to jump out of the water. Put a little food on your finger and hold it above the water until they notice and jump.



Tank

Your fish tank should be about between 21 and 40 gallons for half a dozen to a dozen fish. The best tank material is glass. All fish tanks need a filter. There are different kinds: mechanical filtration makes your water clearer, biological filtration makes your water safer, and chemical filtration is used for solving short-term chemical problems. Your fish tank must have biological filtration. Tropical fish need a heater. You need a thermometer to make sure the temperature of the tank is right. You should put gravel in the bottom and the size/color is up to you, but dark gravel shows the bright colors of fish better. You'll want to get fluorescent lights. They show the colors of your fish and help grow plants if you have them. If you don't have plants, you'll only need one light but plants need more light. You need a hood on the tank so fish don't jump out and water doesn't evaporate. You can get plants if you want to but they're not really necessary. Air pumps are also optional but can be beneficial. You should replace the water and clean out your tank every two weeks. Remove 1/4 of the water in the tank and replace it with treated water. You can clean off the glass and any decorations, use an aquarium vacuum to clean the gravel, and make sure the filter is working right. Once a month, clean out filter cartridges and make sure ammonia, nitrate, and pH levels are good. Every few months deep clean the tank. Put your fish in a deep rinsed container and put aquarium water in it. When the tank is clean, put your fish back in. Transfer them with a net.

Ferrets

Health

Take your ferret to the vet once a year until they are 5 then take them every 6 months. Getting vaccines for your ferret is important especially rabies and distemper. Diarrhea, seizures heavy bleeding, any bite marks, Severe and/or constant pain, sudden weight gain or loss, bloody urine or stool broken bones, or limping are all signs you should take your ferret to the vet.

Care

Ferrets need to have a friend because they don't cope well being alone. Do not let your ferret roam free unsupervised. Wash your ferret. Ferrets can sleep up to 20 hours a day but when they are not asleep they are very active. Ferrets will play with you they love to play a harmless nipping game and tunnel through your clothes or even cardboard boxes. A good recourse for caretaking is the Vet Care website ferret section.



Home

Ferret should live in a well vented cage that can lock from the outside. The ferrets cage should be 4" x 24" x 18" high (60 cm x 60 cm x 45 cm). The ferret should have toys like small balls or toy mice that contain a bell so they can be mentally stimulated. Keep a water bowl in the cage. It is not necessary but is beneficial for ferrets to have swings or tubes in their homes for entertainment.

Directions for Additional Pamphlet

Set up

- research Food/health section
- research Care section
- research Home section
- Fun graphics
- Version for online (can have color background)
- Version for print (white background)
- A title

Good Resources

- <https://www.vetcarepethospital.ca/beginners-guidecare>
- https://bestfriends.org/?gad_source
- <https://secure.aspca.org/donate/ps-gn-p>
- Your local vet
- Your pet store
- A animal behaviorist





Template

Health

Your
paragraph
about the
health of your
animal



Animal

Care

Your
paragraph
about the care
of your animal



Home

Your
paragraph
about the home
of your animal





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New leash on life

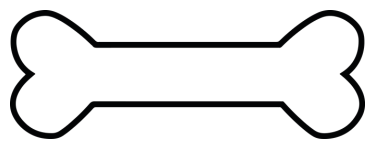
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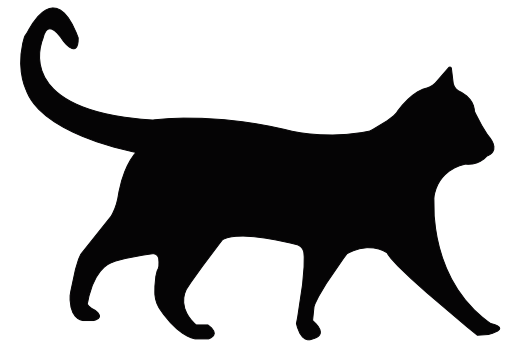
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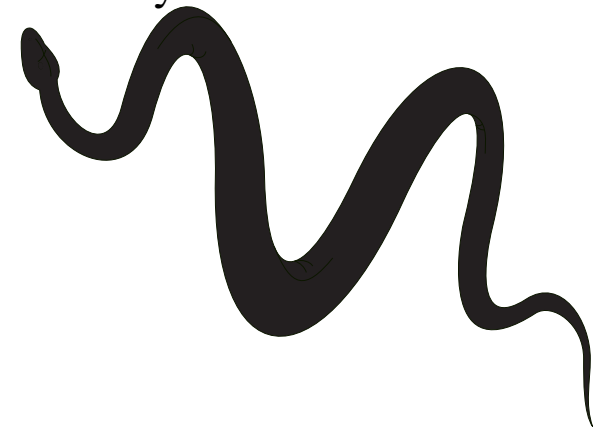
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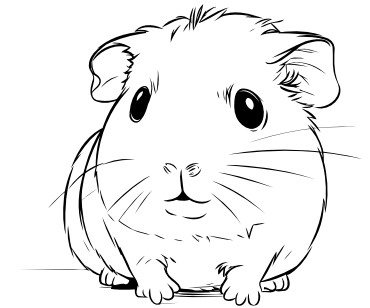


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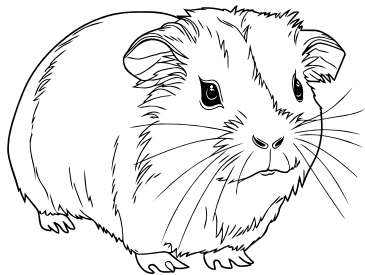


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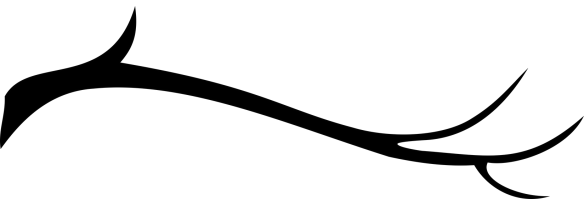
Hamsters: Cages with deep plastic bases and wire tops work because they like digging and climbing. A cage should be at least 24 inches long x 12 inches wide x 12 inches high.

Gerbils and mice: They're usually in aquariums so they can't escape. Make sure the tank has ventilation holes and a secure wire lid. Make sure there are things for them to climb and lots of bedding for gerbils to dig through. Wire cages work if the spacing is no larger than 1/4 inch. You want 10 gallons of space per gerbil. For mice it's 18 inches long x 12 inches wide x 12 inches high. For every mouse, make the floor area 1/2 a square foot bigger.

Guinea pigs: They like flat, open spaces, and can be afraid of heights. Two guinea pigs need at least 10 1/2 square feet of room in their cage, three need at least 13, and four need at least 16.

Put some sort of bedding like wood shavings (aspen or kiln-dried pine), paper shreds, hemp shavings, or something else on the bottom of their cage.

Look at the cage to see if it needs cleaning every day. Clean food/water bowls before refilling and remove dirty litter/bedding. Deep clean the cage, and toys if needed once a week with hot water and soap. Get rid of old bedding.



Food

Feed your birds fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and organic brands of food. Do not feed your bird caffeine, chocolate, mushrooms, avocados, alcohol, or dairy. Make sure to give your bird plenty of fresh water.



Birds

Care

If your birds are lethargic, not sitting on a perch, sleepy, or sitting on the bottom of their cage (they're not picking up pellets.) head tucked under a wing or droopy wings, continuous ruffling of feathers, picking, preening feathers, not cleaning themselves, bald spots, or if they are obviously hurt or bleeding a lot take them to the vet.



Home

Birds need toys to play with. You can play games with your bird like Peekaboo or Hide & Seek. The cage should be big enough for the bird to fly around and have a perch and a good amount of floor space. Make sure the birds food and water is easily accessible from the perch. There should be paper at the bottom of there cage. Their cage should be cleaned regularly.

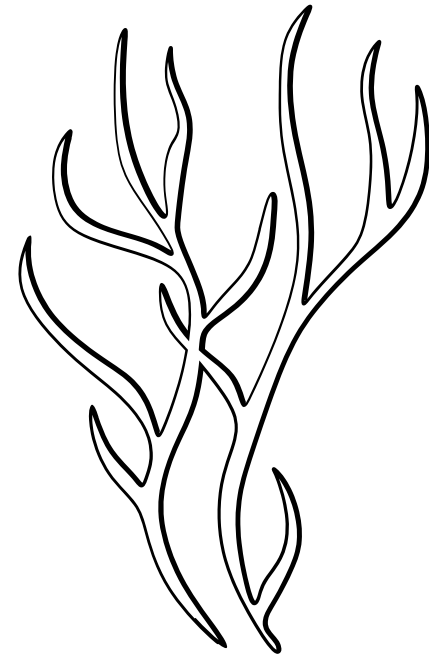
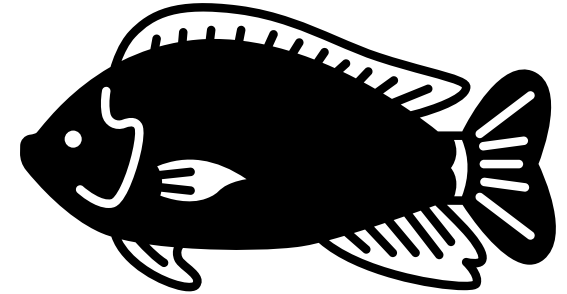
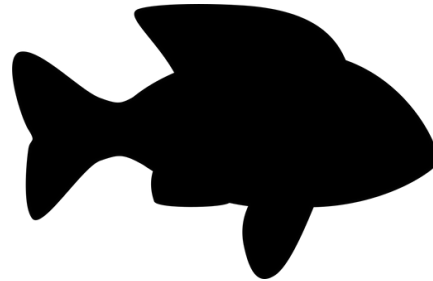
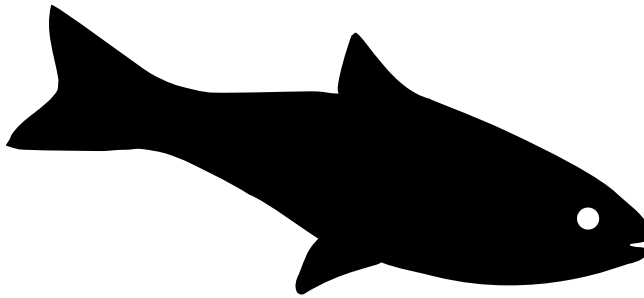
Fish Care

Health

If a fish is sick they'll usually show it.

Behavioral signs could be changes in swimming behavior like loss of balance or floating upside down, or 'sitting' on the tank floor. Physical signs could be changes in the color or the condition of their body and fins, lesions, or swelling in the abdomen.

Parasites cause the most common illness, but they can also have bacterial, fungal, and viral infections. Some of the most common infections are Anchor Worms, Dropsy, Skin or Gill Flukes, and White Spots. Neon Tetras can get Neon Tetra Disease, which is a parasite that causes discoloration. You can prevent illness by quarantining new or sick fish, feeding them high-quality food, making sure the water quality is good, cleaning/changing the tank/filter regularly, making sure there aren't any bully fishes in the tank, and not stressing your fish with temperature changes or loud noises.

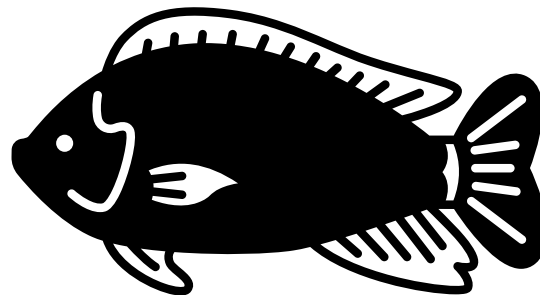


Food

Different fish species need different food. Dry food is the most popular and comes in flakes, pellets, wafers, crisps, and sticks. Flakes are the most common and are cheap, versatile, and better for small fish. Crisps are basically denser flakes that float longer but are more expensive. Pellets are nutritionally good overall and better for bottom feeders. Fish sticks are like pellets, just lighter they make less waste. Wafers/tablets can be big or small, sink, and slowly soften. They're supposed to be nibbled, unlike other fish food. They're good for bottom feeders. Herbivores and omnivores need between 35-45% protein in their food and Carnivores need 40-55%. For most fish some vegetation (like algae flakes) is good unless they're fully carnivorous. Fats should be 15-25% of their diet and they don't need a ton of carbohydrates. They need vitamins like vitamins A, C, D, E & K.

Care

A good rule of thumb is to have at least 50% of the tank floor covered. Territorial fish need spaces to hide. You can even swap out the decor once in a while or put a mirror outside of the tank. Music, especially classical music, can be good for drowning out background noise thus calming fish. Music with a lot of bass or loud noises like barking can stress them out. Never touch your fish unless it's an emergency or they need to be transferred to another tank. Only handle them with a net. You can use your finger or a bright stick to get their attention and get them to follow you. You can even teach them to swim through a hoop. You can teach fish like betas and goldfish to jump out of the water. Put a little food on your finger and hold it above the water until they notice and jump.



Tank

Your fish tank should be about between 21 and 40 gallons for half a dozen to a dozen fish. The best tank material is glass. All fish tanks need a filter. There are different kinds: mechanical filtration makes your water clearer, biological filtration makes your water safer, and chemical filtration is used for solving short-term chemical problems. Your fish tank must have biological filtration. Tropical fish need a heater. You need a thermometer to make sure the temperature of the tank is right. You should put gravel in the bottom and the size/color is up to you, but dark gravel shows the bright colors of fish better. You'll want to get fluorescent lights. They show the colors of your fish and help grow plants if you have them. If you don't have plants, you'll only need one light but plants need more light. You need a hood on the tank so fish don't jump out and water doesn't evaporate. You can get plants if you want to but they're not really necessary. Air pumps are also optional but can be beneficial. You should replace the water and clean out your tank every two weeks. Remove 1/4 of the water in the tank and replace it with treated water. You can clean off the glass and any decorations, use an aquarium vacuum to clean the gravel, and make sure the filter is working right. Once a month, clean out filter cartridges and make sure ammonia, nitrate, and pH levels are good. Every few months deep clean the tank. Put your fish in a deep rinsed container and put aquarium water in it. When the tank is clean, put your fish back in. Transfer them with a net.

Health

Take your ferret to the vet once a year until they are 5 then take them every 6 months. Getting vaccines for your ferret is important especially rabies and distemper. Diarrhea, seizures heavy bleeding, any bite marks, Severe and/or constant pain, sudden weight gain or loss, bloody urine or stool broken bones, or limping are all signs you should take your ferret to the vet.

Ferrets

Care

Ferrets need to have a friend because they don't cope well being alone. Do not let your ferret roam free unsupervised. Wash your ferret. Ferrets can sleep up to 20 hours a day but when they are not asleep they are very active. Ferrets will play with you they love to play a harmless nipping game and tunnel through your clothes or even cardboard boxes. A good recourse for caretaking is the Vet Care website ferret section.



Home

Ferret should live in a well vented cage that can lock from the outside. The ferrets cage should be 4" x 24" x 18" high (60 cm x 60 cm x 45 cm). The ferret should have toys like small balls or toy mice that contain a bell so they can be mentally stimulated. Keep a water bowl in the cage. It is not necessary but is beneficial for ferrets to have swings or tubes in their homes for entertainment.