

Animal	Lifespan	Diet	Herbivore or Omnivore	Minimum Cage Size	Examples of Suitable Cages	Suitable Bedding	Neutering Required?	Nocturnal?	Social With Same Breed?	Sand/dustbath Required?	Grooming Needed?	Minimum Wheel Diameter	Animal Specific Requirements
<b>Syrian Hamster</b>	2-3 years	Complete hamster food such as Harry Hamster along with fruit & veg in moderation. Will also eat other foods such as insects (check hamster websites for full list).	Omnivore	80x50cm	Alaska cage 80x50cm, the Barney cage 100cm, hamster heaven 80x50cm, all can be purchased from zooplus	Dust extracted sawdust (not everyone likes to use this though) or paper substrate such as Carefresh with extra paper based bedding to make a bed with. Never use fluffy cotton wool or hard to tear bedding as this can kill hamsters and should not be on sale.	No	Yes	No, must be kept on their own	Optional	Not required unless long haired breed	28cm solid wheel such as the Trixie, giant Savic roly wly wheel or the giant silent spinner depending on the height of your cage.	Hamsters can hibernate and appear to be dead if they get too cold in the winter so aim to keep them in a warm room to prevent this.
<b>Dwarf (Chinese, Russian or Roborovski) Hamster</b>	1.5-3 years	Complete dwarf hamster food such as Burgess Dwarf Hamster Harvest along with fruit & veg in moderation. Will also eat other foods such as insects (check hamster websites for full list).	Omnivore	80x50cm	Alaska cage 80x50cm, Barney cage 100cm, hamster heaven 80x50cm all can be purchased from zooplus	Dust extracted sawdust (not everyone likes to use this though) or paper substrate such as Carefresh with extra paper based bedding to make a bed with. Never use fluffy cotton wool or hard to tear bedding as this can kill hamsters and should not be on sale.	Not needed if in single sex pairs	Yes	Yes, often in a same sex pair	Optional	No	20 cm solid wheel or equivalent insize for a flying saucer type	Hamsters can hibernate and appear to be dead if they get too cold in the winter so aim to keep them in a warm room to prevent this.
<b>Mouse</b>	1-2 years	Complete mouse food along with small amounts of fresh vegetables or fruit (but no citrus). Dried mealworms can be given as a treat a few times a week.	Omnivore	L71cm x W46cm x H31.5cm	Ferplast Duna Multy (discounted on Porton Aquapet website at £37.99) Alaska, Barney and hamster Heaven cages are also suitable.	Paper substrate such as Carefresh or Back to Nature (never use sawdust) with extra paper based bedding to make a bed with.	Not needed if in single sex groups	Yes	Yes, should be in a same sex trio at least	Optional	No	20cm solid wheel or equivalent in size flying saucer	Cage must have very small gaps between bars to prevent them escaping.
<b>Rat</b>	2-3 years	Complete rat food along with fruit and vegetables and some cooked meats (check rat websites for full list).	Omnivore	100cm x 60cm x 60cm	Savic Royal Suite 95 or MidWest Critter Nation if UK stockist	Paper substrate such as Carefresh or Back to Nature (never use sawdust) with extra paper based bedding to make a bed with.	Yes, particularly with males or mixed sex groups	Yes	Yes, should be in groups of 2 or more	No	No	30cm and bigger, TicTac wheels are ideal	Some rats like to chew plastic so if the cage has plastic elements, inspect them daily to avoid them escaping. They are temperature sensitive so can become poorly very quickly if too hot or cold.
<b>Gerbil</b>	2-4 years	Complete gerbil food along with fruit and vegetables (check gerbil websites for full list).	Herbivore	75x45x63cm	The Falco skyline tank in large, can be purchased from zooplus	Paper substrate such as Carefresh with extra paper based bedding to make a bed with. Woodchips and hay can also be provided to add structure to their burrows and for gnawing on.	No, if no behavioural issues with bonded companions	Mainly nocturnal	Yes, should be in groups of 2 or more	Yes	No	The 28cm wooden Trixie wheel is ideal	They like to burrow so need lots of woodchips and/or hay to burrow into but not sawdust as this causes respiratory issues.
<b>Degu</b>	6-8 years	Degu specific or chinchilla hard feed. Unlimited hay and dried herbs.	Herbivore	100cm x 60cm x 60cm	Savic Royal Suite 95 or MidWest Critter Nation if UK stockist	Softacard, Carefresh or Megazorb.	Yes, for mixed groups	No	Yes, should be in groups of 2 or more	Yes	No	30cm or bigger, The metal TicTac wheels are perfect for degus	Plastic cages must be avoided as they'll eat their way out. They like to burrow so need a tub of sand, hay or paper based substrate to keep them entertained. They are very temperature sensitive and must not be in hot conditions or could develop heat stroke and die. Must have a no sugar diet.
<b>Chinchilla</b>	15-20 years	Complete dry food such as Burgess Excel Chinchilla food, permanent supply of fresh hay and dried herbs/leaves in moderation. Sultanas as the ultimate treat but with a max. of just 1 a week due to sugar content	Herbivore	95 x 63 x 159 cm	Savic Royal Suite 95 or MidWest Critter Nation if UK stockist	Newspaper covered with hay	Not if single sex group and no behavioural issues	Yes and often sleep with eyes open	Yes, should be in groups of 2 or more	Yes as it's how they clean themselves	No	30cm and bigger, The metal TicTac wheels are perfect, the bigger the better.	They must never get wet as their fur is so dense. Plastic cages must be avoided as they'll eat their way out. They need lots of perches and platforms in their cage. They are very temperature sensitive and must not be in hot conditions or could develop heat stroke and die. Must have a no sugar diet.