



Handling your gerbils

RSPCA COMPANION ANIMALS PET CARE FACTSHEET



Gerbil handling advice

REDUCE STRESS ASSOCIATED WITH HANDLING BY MAKING SURE THAT YOU HAVE POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH YOUR GERBILS AND GENTLY HABITUATE THEM TO YOU.

- Interact with your gerbils every day, and handle them as often as you can when they are used to you- never force them to be handled if they do not like it. Make their routine predictable so that they are not startled.
- Offer preferred food or a treat such as pumpkin seeds to help you bond with your pets.
- Make sure that you know how to handle your gerbils correctly, without causing them fear and distress. Always handle your gerbils carefully, in a confident but gentle manner.
 - Gerbils should be allowed to investigate your hands in their own time.
 - Gerbils should not be picked up by the tail because they can shed the outer layer of skin and hair of the tail if in danger, leaving the bone and muscle exposed.
 - Gerbils should be picked up by gently cupping them with two hands, and fully supporting their body.
 - Do not hold your gerbils at a height as they could fall and injure themselves. Handle them above a table or other surface or when sitting down.



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