



Housing gerbils together

RSPCA COMPANION ANIMALS PET CARE FACTSHEET



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GERBILS CAN BE HOUSED IN SAME-SEX PAIRS OR GROUPS, AS LONG AS THE GROUPS ARE FORMED EARLY IN LIFE AND ARE STABLE. DO NOT KEEP MALES AND FEMALES TOGETHER UNLESS YOU CAN PROVIDE FOR THEIR YOUNG AND ARE ABLE TO FIND GOOD HOMES FOR THE OFFSPRING!



- Group-housed gerbils should be young litter mates to help reduce the risk of aggression.
- Additional group members should not be added at a later date as established groups are unlikely to accept new animals, with the possible exception of juveniles less than five weeks old.
- If you do decide to introduce young gerbils to your group, house the animals separately but adjacent to each other for a week or so before putting them together. Transfer some used bedding from the new gerbil's home to that of the group, and vice versa, and monitor them carefully when grouping them.
- Mutual grooming and nose-to-nose contact are signs that the animals are bonding.
- Check your gerbils regularly for signs of aggression between group members.



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