

## **Guinea Pig, Mouse, Rat, Hamster & Gerbil Care in a Disaster Shelter (i.e., Temporary Shelter)**

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For rabbit information, see: [http://curiousbunny.com/disaster\\_shelter\\_summary.pdf](http://curiousbunny.com/disaster_shelter_summary.pdf)

### **Guinea Pig**

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Care is same as for rabbits (hay, greens, treats, equipment, procedures), except for the following.

For food pellets, use Oxbow adult guinea pig food (adult) or Oxbow young guinea pig food (under 6 months, pregnant, nursing). If you don't have this, any adult or young guinea pig food, or rabbit food can be used short term for all ages (if it doesn't have bits of dried fruit in it). Feed 1/8 cup (25 ml) twice a day.

Cover the bottom of the cage with paper-based litter (no separate litter box). When cleaning cage, with gloved hands, remove poop & urine soiled litter. Add more litter as needed.

Usually use water bottle, rather than water bowl, so the litter does not get into it.

Give one handful of greens & 1 treat (1/2 baby carrot) twice a day.

### **Mouse & Rat**

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Care is same as for guinea pigs, except for the following.

For food pellets, use Oxbow or Mazuri rat/mouse food. If you don't have this, any adult or young mouse, rat, hamster or gerbil food can be used short term for all ages (if it doesn't have bits of dried fruit in it). They should have unlimited food.

Give very small amount of greens & 1 treat (1/4 baby carrot) once a day. They don't eat hay but use it for nesting.

They like to climb, so provide a multi-level habitat with ropes for climbing. Provide small tissue box or paper bag for fun.

### **Hamster & Gerbil**

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Care is same as for guinea pigs, except for the following.

For food pellets, use Oxbow or Mazuri hamster & gerbil food along with Higgins Sunburst hamster & gerbil food (which has bits of seeds & fruit, which is good). If you don't have this,

any adult or young mouse, rat, hamster or gerbil food can be used short term for all ages. Feed 1/8 - 1/3 cup (25 - 33 ml) twice a day or unlimited (under 6 months, pregnant, nursing).

Give very small amount of greens once a day. Can also give small pieces of hard-boiled egg & cheese. They don't eat hay but use it for nesting.

They like to climb, so provide a multi-level habitat with ropes for climbing. Provide small tissue box or paper bag for fun.

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Rev 240911