

Keeping rabbits and other small mammals

It is important to check on the individual needs of these animals before you buy them, to be confident that you can provide properly for them.

All rodents and lagomorphs are prey animals in nature, highly 'edgy' and very easily stressed and upset. They 'live fast, die young' in the wild.

They all make good pets but are all quite different in their day to day care. Rabbits and guinea pigs are very sociable animals and shouldn't be kept on their own.

Check what your pet should eat, rabbits

for instance should eat grass in one form or another. Muesli mixes may allow them to eat selectively and so may unbalance diets.

Vetark vitamin products

The most useful routine multivitamin for small mammals is our liquid **BSP drops**, these are designed for routine usage, and are very palatable. Our new liquid vitamin C product can accompany **BSP drops** for guinea pigs.



Our specialist vitamin supplement **NUTROBAL** is specifically formulated as a high calcium 'balancer' to correct diets deficient in calcium. **ARKVITS** provides the ideal blend for adult animals.



	Average lifespan years	Adult bodyweight	Sexual maturity	Gestation/Pregnancy (days)	Average litter size	Weaning
Rabbit	8-12	1-8kg	16-24 wk	30-33	4-12	7-8 wk
Guinea pig	4-8	0.75-1.2 kg	6-10 wk	59-72	1-6	2-3 wk
Syrian Hamster	2-3	150-180 g	7-8 wk	15-18	4-12	3 wk
Dwarf hamsters	1.5-2	120 g	7-8wk	18-21	3-5	3 wk
Gerbil	3-5	50-60g	10 wk	24-26	4-6	21-24 days
Rat	3-4	400-800g	8-10 wk	20-22	6-16	3-4 wk
Mouse	2-3	20-40g	6-7 wk	19-21	8-12	3-4 wk
Chinchilla	10-12	500-600g	7m	105-118	2-3	42 days
Degu	< 7	170-300g	6m	90	6-8	4 wk

This table gives approximated data and some variation will be seen. Always check. In general females are capable of breeding earlier than males, males are said to live longer than females.

Vetark health products

AVIPRO is a combination of probiotic organisms, prebiotic soluble-fibre, electrolytes and vitamins. Its high palatability means that it can be added to the drinking water making its use simple for all small mammals etc. Its function is to support the animals natural bacterial gut flora at a time when the animal is sick or stressed.

ProC is a probiotic based on AVIPRO but designed for routine use, it contains a lower level of probiotic but has high levels of vitamin C and added chlorophyll, a natural detoxifier.



Critical Care Formula (CCF) is a high potency blend of protein hydrolysate and carbohydrates to use as emergency critical care support-food for absolutely any species! It is useful for collapsed or weak animals before introducing ground grass nursing products. It is also very useful for support of older animals.

Our tamed-iodine **Tamodine Wound Dressing** is also very useful to clean up injuries, its kind action belies its cleansing and antiseptic properties.



SoluVerm is safe, effective, piperazine-based round-worm treatment for addition to the drinking water.



Tamodine & SoluVerm are licensed as medicines under the Small Animal Exemption Scheme.

Vetark hygiene products

Ark-Klens is widely used for disinfection of animal housing. It is a non-scented cleanser disinfectant, effective against the majority of problem bacteria, flu virus etc etc.

Our disinfectant **Tamodine-E** is used for major disinfection tasks after disease etc. As a brown-coloured iodophor you can see exactly where you have treated so that you don't miss anywhere!



RESCUED ANIMALS

AVIPRO's high palatability means that it can be added to the drinking water making its use simple for all rescued birds & animals throughout their period in rescue centres. Because it can be given 'hands off' it is ideal in the run up to release.



Critical Care Formula (CCF) can be given via the finest tube to the tiniest pipistrelle or leveret.

NUTROBAL has been used very successfully for many years by bat rescuers to raise the calcium levels of the insects they feed to their charges.



Nutritional osteodystrophy resulting in badly deformed bones has become a problem seen by some of the wildlife workers using supplementary feeding with wild colonies of red squirrels and **NUTROBAL** has proved valuable in boosting levels of calcium and vitamins in the feed to avoid this problem.



Hutch & cage hygiene

Animals kept in hutches and cages must be kept hygienically, diseases such as coccidia or Tyzzer's etc may spread between animals.

- Use a quality food to minimise waste
- Change water daily
- Remove uneaten food from the floor around the hutch or cage
- Wipe off obvious faecal soiling on a daily basis with **Ark-Klens**

Ark-Klens is a powerful, disinfectant against a wide range of viruses, bacteria and fungi and *E. cuniculi*. It is safe for animals, and has excellent cleaning and deodorising properties. At the recommended levels it is safe and non-corrosive.

This makes **Ark-Klens** ideal for disinfection of the animal environment such as cages, kennels, litter trays, and food bowls.

General disinfection and cleansing is carried out using 10ml/5 litres (1 gallon), so a 250ml bottle makes 125 litres (25 gallons! **Ark-Klens** is also available in a Ready-to-Use refillable spray.

Periodic major cleanup, or following a disease outbreak

For total disinfection after a disease outbreak we recommend a thorough cleaning with **Ark-Klens** followed by use of **Tamodine-E** our iodophor disinfectant - followed by a final rinsing.



Health products for rabbits and small mammals

Vetark Professional was founded in 1987 by veterinarian Peter Scott FRCVS who still formulates products. Peter is an RCVS recognised Specialist in Zoo & Wildlife Medicine.

Vetark is pleased to support:

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

www.hwt.org.uk



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www.hants.gov.uk/bats/



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